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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

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2 May 1984

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

- Mugabe Moots Black States' Tourist Deal
(THE CITIZEN, 13 Apr 84)..... 1

ANGOLA

- Speculation, Black Market Causes, Effects Assessed
(Mario Campos; JORNAL DE ANGOLA, 13 Mar 84)..... 2

- Agriculture Ministry Urged To Respond to Farmers' Needs
(JORNAL DE ANGOLA, 13 Mar 84)..... 5

- Briefs
New Zaire Province Officials..... 7

BOTSWANA

- Foreign Minister Comments on RSA Security Talks
(Bapasi Mphusu; DAILY NEWS, 26 Mar 84)..... 8

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- Firing of Foreign Affairs Secretary Detailed
(Foday Fofanah; AFRICA NOW, Jan 84)..... 10

ETHIOPIA

- EPLF Capturing Growing Numbers of Ethiopians as War Widens
(Jorgen Siegumfeldt; BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 1 Apr 84)..... 12

- Development of Ties With USSR Discussed
(THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD, 31 Mar 84)..... 17

Recruits of NMS Leave for Training Centers (THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD, 1 Apr 84).....	19
Second Water Project Underway (THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD, 28 Mar 84).....	20
Briefs	
Trade Agreement With Libya	22
GAMBIA	
Development of GAMTEL Company (THE SENEGAMBIA SUN, 9 Apr 84).....	23
GUINEA-BISSAU	
Portuguese Firm To Execute Port Project (NO PINTCHA, 24 Mar 84).....	26
Briefs	
Portuguese Ophthalmologists	27
IVORY COAST	
Briefs	
Bills on ECOWAS, CEAO	28
LIBERIA	
Country's New Investment Code Discussed (AFRICA NOW, Jan 84).....	29
Tax Collectors Soliciting Bribes To Be Executed (Radio ELWA, 23 Apr 84).....	31
Briefs	
Delinquent Taxpayer Property Confiscated	32
MADAGASCAR	
Role of CMD, FAP in Development Analyzed (Rabeony Interview; MADAGASCAR MATIN, 27 Mar 84).....	33
CMD Concludes 1984 Session (MADAGASCAR MATIN, 26 Mar 84).....	37
NAMIBIA	
SWAPO Reported Planning To Reenter Domestic Political Scene (THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER, 9 Apr 84).....	39

Voice of Namibia Marks SWAPO Anniversary (Voice of Namibia, 19 Apr 84).....	42
--	----

Briefs	
DTA Leader Asks Reconciliation	44

NIGERIA

Analysis of Maitatsine Situation Provided (Mahmoud Hamman Abu; NEW NIGERIAN, 23 Mar 84).....	45
---	----

Corruption Incidents in Country Noted (NEW NIGERIAN, various dates; SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN, 25 Mar 84).....	51
--	----

Bank Officials
Teachers Institute Swindle, by Emman Udoka
Police Probe of Bribes, by Yusuf Ozi Usman
Fraud in Abuja, by Abdullahi Idris

Military Government Adds Civilians to Leadership (AFRICA NOW, No 34, Feb 84).....	56
--	----

Purges of Former Government Officials Said Beginning (Ben Asante; AFRICA NOW, No 34, Feb 84).....	58
--	----

Lagos Commentary on State of Economy (Lagos Domestic Service, 5 Apr 84).....	61
---	----

Ban on Rice Imports Should Not Be Instituted Hastily (Editorial; DAILY STAR, 9 Mar 84).....	63
--	----

Briefs	
Law on Bush Burning	65
Insecticide Imports	65
Oil Exploration	66
Work Stops at Airport	66
Fall in Currency Circulation	66
Ban on Passports	66
Anambra Governor's Promotion	67
Rice Distribution	67

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

President Denies Existence of Soviet Military Bases (NOTICIAS, 26 Mar 84).....	68
---	----

SOUTH AFRICA

New Rightwing Organization Formed (DIE PATRIOT, 10 Mar 84).....	69
Advertisement States Goals Treurnicht, Marais, Boshoff Comment	
DIE PATRIOT Evaluates Referendum Results (Editorial; DIE PATRIOT, 10 Mar 84).....	72

UGANDA

Rift Reported in Democratic Party (THE PEOPLE, 26 Mar 84).....	74
Iron, Steel Industry Production Described (Ndyakira-Amooti; THE PEOPLE, 19 Mar 84).....	75

ZAMBIA

Relations Between Students, Government Examined (Jacques de Barrin; LE MONDE, 8-9 Apr 84).....	79
---	----

ZIMBABWE

Briefs	
Mugabe Condemns Women's Polling	83
New Railroad Line	83

MUGABE MOOTS BLACK STATES' TOURIST DEAL

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 13 Apr 84 p 10

[Text]

HARARE. — Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said yesterday a unique holiday package in Black Southern Africa could be assembled, and called on tourism leaders of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference countries to set it up.

Opening a two-day conference of SADCC Tourism Ministers and officials in Harare, Mr Mugabe told the delegates they should design a framework that would promote and facilitate regional cooperation in tourism.

Mr Mugabe said SADCC member countries — Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, Angola, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique should discard the notion that tourism was a "sport" with a particular attraction for Europeans, Americans and Japanese and which Africans could only observe but not play.

"Yes, we should wel-

come the Europeans, the Americans and others into our countries and to tourist facilities," he said.

"But we should also encourage our own people to visit and enjoy the multifarious tourist attractions found in all our countries in this region.

Tourism to Zimbabwe continued to pick up in January this year, with 24 427 people visiting the country, 2 683 more than in January last year.

According to the latest Government migration and tourism statistics, visitors who left the country in January said they spent R4 237 329, although the central statistical office warns this was not necessarily all in foreign currency. Visitors who don't stay for at least one night are not included in the spending figures.

The Zambian figures jumped from 6 327 in January 1983 to 7 490 in January this year, almost certainly making Zambia the largest single source of tourism.

CSO: 3400/840

SPECULATION, BLACK MARKET CAUSES, EFFECTS ASSESSED

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Mario Campos]

[Text] The action underway of purely and simply destroying Luanda's parallel markets may be the immediate result of an effort generated by the incorrect evaluation of the causes and effects of a real socioeconomic situation.

In short: Does the proliferation of the parallel markets and black marketeering represent the cause of the difficult food situation that is being experienced and of the strangulation of the commercial system, or, on the contrary, are they the effects of it?

Home Trade practices the system of barter with the farmers to obtain from them corn, cornmeal, bananas, garden vegetables, etc., in the rural areas, from which the overwhelming majority of those products that were seized by the police in the aforementioned markets come. That state organization supplies the essential industrial goods such as soap, sugar, rice, cloth, etc., etc. in exchange for the farm products. Well, Home Trade goes through long periods of crisis, such as the present one, for example, in which it has almost nothing in its warehouses to give either the urban population or the farmers.

The farmer is reluctant to hand over his products and ends up by not doing so. And he does not do so because he believes he would come out the loser in the deal. And he would be the loser because he would have to submit to the purchase prices stipulated by Home Trade, fair and balanced prices but which do not serve for those who later would have to buy a bar of soap for 2,000 kwanzas, a kilo of rice for 1,000 kwanzas, a beer for 340 and a piece of cloth for an arm and a leg. And if Home Trade does not have those products with the desired frequency, and most of the time does not bring them to the farm, who brings them there? The black marketeer, of course. The black marketeer, who is later "slaughtered" at the hands of the farmers and who unconcernedly takes it out on the consuming public in the cities, weaving the vicious circle that leads to speculation and black marketeering, the difficulties and the discouragement of the city worker.

That is what has to be seen and seen again. And let the bananas that are going rotten in Nambuanguongo be seen also, and the other products that are meeting the same fate in other places.

Many voices have been raised declaring that the situation was not as unreliable at the time of the National Agricultural Products Marketing and Distribution Company (ENCODIPA). Because, they say, Home Trade is not active in the farms; it does not penetrate in there; in short, it is not a good trade partner.

And the readers will justifiably wonder: What of the state agriculture and livestock complexes? Products are not coming out of those large agricultural plantations on which the state invested a fortune.

Even from the "Kwanza Bengo" complex, here near Luanda, there is no production coming out that can be seen. The point is not whether that complex is producing or not. It is merely a matter of confirming that the products that should be produced there are not appearing here in Luanda. And even the most transparent naivete could not lead one to believe that those products are intended for N'Dalatando or Uije, for example.

At the same time, it would be pertinent to know by what philosophy one replaces the inspection of markets with their destruction. Where are the inspectors, who permit prices to be charged in the (state) Sao Paulo market identical to those in the parallel market right alongside it? Because as a matter of fact, if differences exist they are not at the level of prices but rather in the variety of products in one and the other. The sad fact is that the "parallel" one (even there alongside) has a far superior assortment of products to the state one.

Besides, today the concept of state and parallel market has become diluted. Which is which? From what we know, in the former Banga-Sumo market, some vendors were also charged fees.

If the designation of underground market comes from the speculative prices charged there, the inspection activity of those who are paid to do so is lacking in those as well as in the "official" and in every type of market.

So let us agree that there are objective conditions favorable to black marketeering. Unorthodox situations that can be observed in the daily routine confirm the fact.

Anyone who goes by the Kinaxixe market can see the trucks of EDIPESCA every day unloading fish in that market around 1200-1300 hours. It is known ahead of time that that, as well as the other state markets, closes at 1500 hours. Those two factors, together with the lack of operating freezer compartments lead the vendors to "pack" their fish home, where no false modesty prevents them from selling it at the most arbitrary prices. And that happens also in regard to other products.

And it happens invariably day after day.

There is no doubt that the machinery by which speculation slips through has today reached an almost unsurpassable perfection. But we do not believe that the subtlety of the means exceeds the vigilance of those who for a long time have done nothing but inspect markets. And don't speak to us about the cadres.

Speak to us about the causes and not the effects. Because we are experiencing the latter with apprehension.

8711

CSO: 3442/315

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY URGED TO RESPOND TO FARMERS' NEEDS

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] The importance of agriculture as a basic factor of national economic development in our country makes it a priority sector which, in the current stage, deserves greater attention.

Satisfaction of this requirement would not only be synonymous with the fulfillment of directives from above but would also mean a corresponding satisfaction of the ever-growing needs of the people in terms of food, and of national industry in the area of supply of many materials which were previously available domestically and are now scarce because of import contingencies with which we are all familiar.

An in-depth analysis of the situation of the sector leads one to conclude that it suggests the application of urgent and effective measures that will permit better coordination between the bureaucratic structures of the Ministry of Agriculture and those on the farm with the basic aim of improving relations and the contact with the real situation of the farmers. These observations arise in connection with the current meeting of the Consultative Council of the Ministry of Agriculture which we believe will seriously consider this matter.

It has almost become the norm for the editorial offices of the MDM's [expansion unknown] to receive reports from the most diverse parts of the country about sad situations connected with this branch, as in the case of products of the farmers which are not distributed or purchased through mere negligence after reaching the harvest stage with so much sweat; of the meager or even nonexistent technical-material supplies and essential consumer goods, etc.

The human factor assumes particular priority in the need to pay greater attention to the farm; in this case the farmer, who is always ready for productive tasks provided that his essential needs are satisfied. Practice shows that it is not very difficult to satisfy a farmer considering his modest needs. And we are also of the opinion that although the country is facing many difficulties in different sectors, the farmers can be better taken care of, this factor depending only on greater discipline, conservation and control of aid activity.

We are not here demanding astronomical incentives for the farmers since it is enough that they be guaranteed technical-material and essential consumer goods supplies in order to feel encouraged.

We are aware of the difficulties which the sector is experiencing in the areas affected by the armed puppet bands of international imperialism which negate the possibility of development of any productive activity. However, there are areas free of enemy actions which demand the attention to which we refer.

That is why better consideration should be given to the situation.

Farm Marketing

The third consultative council of the emergency program for farm marketing recently approved the regulation of the National and Provincial Supply Commission and appointed the task force to prepare it.

Guided by its coordinator, Evaristo Domingos (Kimba), the council discussed the situation regarding the arrival of the goods contracted for marketing, as well as analyzing the action program to be carried out in the course of the process and preparation of the national seminar on farm marketing to be held this year.

Present at the meeting were the ministers of fisheries and home trade, the vice ministers of industry and of transportation and telecommunications, as well as the directors of EDIMBA, EDIMBI and IMPORTANG, and representatives of Finance, the National Bank of Angola and the Plan.

8711

CSO: 3442/315

BRIEFS

NEW ZAIRE PROVINCE OFFICIALS--The provincial commissioner of Zaire, Artur Vidal Gomes (Kumbi Diezabo), installed the new provincial leaders in the main hall of the provincial commissariat. Thus, he installed Pedro Cato Marques as municipal commissioner of Mbanza Kongo, Francisco Joaquim Encongre as assistant municipal commissioner of Noqui, while Neves Eduardo Jose and Bernardo Clemente N'Kunka assumed the positions of chiefs of the provincial delegation of the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MINTEC) and community services, respectively. On the same occasion, Artur Vidal Gomes installed several communal commissioners of Mangué Grande, Luvaka, Kuimba, Sumba, Lifico, Noqui and Nkanda Kuimba. Yesterday also the provincial commissioner of Zaire and member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Workers Party, visited the central jail of Mbanza Kongo where he showed interest in its operation. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 13 Mar 84 p 9] 8711

CSO: 3442/315

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RSA SECURITY TALKS

MB160940 Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 7

[By Bapasi Mphusu]

[Excerpt] Gaborone, 26 Mar (BOPA)--The governments of Botswana and South Africa are to study a proposal which was formulated at last Thursday's security talks between representatives of the two governments in Cape Town.

The Botswana delegation which was involved in the talks arrived last Thursday night led by the minister of external affairs, Mr Archibald Mogwe.

In a brief press conference on arrival at the airport, Mr Mogwe explained that the Cape Town security talks had nothing to do with the recent Nkomati Accord signed between the Peoples' Republic of Mozambique and South Africa or anything similar.

He said the talks were on "matters of mutual security." Mr Mogwe told the press that Botswana was concerned about the security situation, and quoted the recent reports that "some people crossed from Botswana into Namibia."

The minister confirmed that the people who crossed into Namibia from western Botswana were freedom fighters of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

However, he said, "it was not correct to say SWAPO was beginning to operate from western Botswana."

"It is correct to say some SWAPO freedom fighters entered Namibia from Botswana, and I don't know whether one can make it a substantive statement that SWAPO has began operating from Botswana," said Mr Mogwe.

He added that his delegation confirmed to South Africa that some SWAPO guerrillas entered Namibia from Botswana.

He reiterated that it was Botswana's policy to receive refugees, but stressed "one of the cardinal principles of our foreign policy is that we do not permit our country to be used by anybody as a launching pad against any other country."

Mr. Mogwe also emphasised that refugees were not allowed to attack their countries from Botswana, adding that "our security is jeopardised by anybody who uses it as a launching pad against other states."

He cited the issue of Zimbabwe dissidents as another threat to Botswana's security.

Asked whether there will be a follow-up [to] the Cape Town meeting Mr Mogwe said "we can never rule out the possibility of ever meeting any country, particularly neighbouring countries in matters where our security and their security is concerned."

He however said that no decision was made on the date of the next meeting. Mr Mogwe also said that the three hours meeting was a "natural followup" to a meeting which was held three weeks ago in South Africa between representatives of the two governments.

A statement which was issued after the talks stated that "progress has been made and the two delegations formulated a proposal which will be submitted to the two governments for consideration."

CS0: 3400/888

FIRING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY DETAILED

London AFRICA NOW in English Jan 84 p 22

[Article by Foday Fofanah]

[Text] Equatorial Guinea's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Apolinar Moiche has been fired from his job and put under house-arrest for issuing diplomatic passports to two North Korean citizens. This is according to the country's ambassador to Madrid, Luis Obiang Mengue, who strongly denied that the affair is connected with a recent coup attempt to bring down the regime of President Obiang Nguema.

Moiche, a Bubi, is believed to have been arrested after the two North Koreans sought a visa at a friendly country's embassy in Malabo. Their credentials aroused suspicion and, according to Ambassador Mengue, the embassy officials immediately alerted the Equato-Guinean authorities. The official Spanish news agency *Efe* reported from Malabo that the two North Koreans wanted to travel with President Obiang to Morocco.

Relations between North Korea and Equatorial Guinea are "normal." The former has a diplomatic mission in Malabo but there is no Equato-Guinean equivalent in Pyongyang. "North Koreans have long been asking for diplomatic credentials from the defunct Secretary of State, who took advantage of the absence of his superior, the Foreign Minister, to issue them," Ambassador Obiang Mengue maintained. He did not say where the two North Koreans are at present or why they wanted the passports. "These credentials confer on their holders the facility to do as they wish," the diplomat stressed.

He argued that his government enjoys complete "political stability," and he could throw no light on speculations about a *coup d'état*. Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, on the other hand, told *Efe* that Equatorial Guinea belongs to the category of countries with "unstable structures."

Diplomatic sources in Malabo have contradicted Ambassador Mengue's version that no other detentions in connection with the "Korean Affair" have been made. Two top officials in the department of the defunct Secretary of State are believed to be in detention, though the sources could not clearly establish the connection between the detentions and the persisting speculation about a *coup d'état* in the Equato-Guinean capital.

President Obiang's man, however, admitted the arrest of two health officials implicated in a smuggling and corruption racket. They are Car nelo Esono Ndong and Valeriano Nguema Micha, charged with selling medicine and detergents and smuggling official vehicles including ambulances and a "Pegasso" truck, which they allegedly sold illegally. The racket also included international food aid to Equatorial Guinea. Over 15,000 bottles of penicillin, pillows and bleach have mysteriously disappeared from the stores of the Bata Hospital, where Valeriano Nguema Micha was director, and his accomplice regional health representative.

Ambassador Obiang Mengue believes there is no relation between the ex-Secretary of State Apolinar Moiche and the aborted "palace coup" of Sergeant Mico, at present in detention. He said he knew the rebel sergeant since childhood, stressing that Mico is not undergoing any rigorous detention at the public prison in Malabo, "where he gets assistance from his family; they bring him food, wash his clothes and so on." He affirmed that the Obiang government has fulfilled its promises in the "Mico affair," with which he said he was "fed up."

Meanwhile, the Spanish Government, alarmed at the increasing instability of the Malabo regime, has decided to put some

order into the costly and inefficient co-operation it has maintained with the former colony during the last 15 years in the shortest possible time. At the same time, and following the continuing corruption that affects aid to Equatorial Guinea (amounting to nearly 2,000m pesetas), Madrid intends to get back as much of its money as possible. The deficit is estimated at 6,000m pesetas and, since August 1982, not a single peseta has been paid back.

A delegation went to Malabo last month to discuss the renegotiation of Equatorial Guinea's debts with its former colonial master and to attend what was probably the last Joint-Commission meeting between the two countries. It is understood Spanish aid to the co-operation package will be limited to only three areas, education, health and military — the latter including training of officials and military protection for the Spanish embassy.

Discussed also were the debts President Obiang's government owes to the Banco de Espana; the national currency and stamps enterprise; the Iberia air line and to other companies. The Joint-Commission was presided over by Ambassador Salvador Bermudez de Castro, head of the Office of Co-operation with the former colony ●

CSO: 3400/837

EPLF CAPTURING GROWING NUMBERS OF ETHIOPIANS AS WAR WIDENS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 1 Apr 84 Sect IV p 2

[Article by Jorgen Siegumfeldt: "They Play Volleyball With the Enemy"]

[Text] The large number of prisoners of war held by the partisans is one indication that the Eritrean war for independence is not merely widespread guerrilla actions, but a regular war.

Orota.

Suddenly they emerged among the sparse trees in the rocky valley. It was one of the few places where there was a little water in the otherwise dried up river bed. They appeared to be in good humor as they strolled out into the shimmering sunlight to go down and splash a little water on their faces. They stood down there and paddled, chatted and enjoyed the cooling freshness.

"Prisoners of war," said my escort from the Eritrean Liberation Organization EPLF, and nodded in the direction of the men. "There are about 3,000 of them here in the valley," he added.

The men in the valley were of widely different ages. From young boys to what appeared to be older men. What they had in common was rather miserable clothing. Their uniforms were not the usual khaki or camouflage colors, but rags and tatters.

Not that the EPLF partisans themselves wore polished buttons. Their appearance was quite varied, but their clothing was complete, and on their feet they all wore the same plastic sandals. The same type that the little factory in one of the other valleys spits out of a machine every minute.

And there was another difference. The Ethiopian prisoners were all men. The EPLF partisans also included women. Doing the same jobs, wearing the same kind of clothes, and with the same weapons as the men. And without the girls losing any of their femininity.

Military Look

Equality between the sexes is one of the slogans of the freedom movement. And it is observed more here than in any other place in Africa or the Middle East. Out in the field there are apparently many ways to divide up the work--regardless of whether it is cooking or guard duty.

The latter must have come as somewhat of a shock to the Ethiopian war prisoners. To be guarded by a carbine-armed young woman in smart khaki shorts and t-shirt must be seen by many of them as a humiliation. The decadent European trend setters could have enthused greatly over the feminine "military look."

One other point about the prisoners was that only some of them were under guard. Over a period of several days I saw the entire gamut: from the freed prisoners--who lived their own lives beside the Eritreans--to the prisoners who went and collected firewood under full guard. In between there were different categories who went about almost freely, while a partisan supervised the entire flock.

The prisoners of war have in several ways been somewhat of a problem for the Eritrean partisans. Back in the 70's there were numerous reports of how thousands of prisoners were sent back to Ethiopia. That was when the Ethiopians organized the great peasant army, in which totally untrained peasants--many of them boys--were forced out against the partisans by armed regular soldiers.

There are still many very young Ethiopians enrolled in the military. But in spite of everything, today they look more like an army. That has not, however, made the Eritreans' problem less. Because they are still not fighting against a well-motivated enemy. They are people who mostly have nothing against the Eritreans, and whose only reason for being in the Ethiopian Army is to get food, drink and some pocket money for beer.

One Fine Wednesday

That means, among other things, that the prisoners are not always especially interested in going back to Ethiopia. Many naturally are. But there are also many who prefer to remain. And the Eritreans have temporarily accepted this. It is difficult to get entirely clear answers from the EPLF partisans about their thoughts on the prisoners remaining in Eritrea. It is clearly a question that is being debated.

At the moment the freed prisoners live in their own huts. And since for obvious reasons they do not take part in the work of the EPLF, they also have more time at their disposal. Therefore their huts are often surrounded by small vegetable gardens. Which can lead to the faulty assumption that the prisoners are better off than the Eritreans. That does not seem to be

the case. But it is not so much the opposite, either. From what I could see and hear, the prisoners were treated exactly like the Eritreans. At least as to food, living quarters, medical care, etc.

The immediate impression of the treatment of the prisoners is therefore good enough. Or perhaps even better. One memorable Wednesday--EPLF's weekly free day, which would not offend either Christians or Moslems--I was taken, together with some partisans, to visit a newly married EPLF couple. Regardless of whether they are at the front or in the rear, the partisans have fixed working periods, with vacations, etc. The newlyweds had really also been granted a month's wedding vacation. So we sat and relaxed with the couple and some of their friends while we drank homebrew beer.

Just before we were to depart I learned that the group was going to play a holiday game: volleyball. Even though the EPLF are strong at organizing, there is neither a first nor a second division in their volleyball. No, the game was to be between this group of EPLF people and the group of freed Ethiopians who lived nearby. I asked to be excused.

It went much like a game in a Danish railway town. The spectators all sat on their own side, depending on which group they belonged to. And on the field the game was played in a serious way--even though from time to time they joked and laughed together.

The Ethiopians won very convincingly. It was clear that they played to win. Before and during the game they discussed tactics. On the other hand the Eritreans were more relaxed in their play--this was a break in the hard daily routine. It seemed that they did not have the energy to take it all so seriously. But everyone had a fine Wednesday afternoon.

Conversation in the Dark

I asked my EPLF escort if I could speak with the Ethiopians, but was told that I would be introduced to some "who would be better to talk to" and "who could speak English." It was clearly not a good idea to talk to the Ethiopians on my own.

At my first inquiry whether I could talk to a "real" prisoner of war I was told that there were prisoners who spoke excellent English and with whom I could discuss whatever I wanted to. But not alone. I asked for that, but was told it was against the regulations. It is apparently the same as the Red Cross was told when that organization wanted to visit prisoners of war outside the fixed rules: Was it possible to talk to all in privacy?

The first one selected I actually should have known in advance. A couple of days before I had seen an EPLF film about the battle for the town of Tessenei, which the partisans had captured. In the film there was a cap-

tured Ethiopian lieutenant, who with great conviction, expert knowledge and apparently great deliberation analyzed the battle--sitting at a large desk.

It was difficult to believe that this was the same person I was now meeting. He looked almost a little too pliant. Hands at his sides and bowed head--and his answers seemed to be calculated to please the Eritreans who were witnessing my conversation with him.

Yes, he had been well treated, and was given permission to write to his family. He did not want to go back to Ethiopia, because they were shot on return. "That is the law of war," he said. To the question of whether he and his comrades had the opportunity to play volleyball with the Eritreans, he promptly replied, "We played against them on 15 January." That was the day before the battle around Tessenei--which the Ethiopians lost.

The other prisoner that I got to talk to appeared more relaxed in his reactions--and not so obviously set on the necessity of pleasing his captors with his answers. While his colleague had praised the food, this prisoner merely said that they got the same food as the Eritreans.

On certain points he directly contradicted his colleague. For example concerning what happened when they return to Ethiopia from being a prisoner of war. The reaction was not so drastic as in his colleague's description. And his version was indirectly confirmed by the Eritreans, who told of how they have had prisoners who were sent home--and later taken prisoner again when they returned with a new army unit.

The conversations took place in the dark of the night--only sparsely lighted by a kerosene lamp which stood on the windowsill in a little building against the side of the mountain. When I finished my questions I gave the prisoner a pack of cigarettes, and the guard was taking him out when he suddenly asked if he could ask me a couple of questions.

The Prisoners Want to Stay

After a little introductory talk he came to the point that was his concern: Why did the Red Cross not do anything for the prisoners of war--and would I try to pass that question farther?

A telephone inquiry in Geneva to the International Red Cross Committee brought the information that "the Red Cross is aware of the existing situation in that part of Africa, and hopes to be able to carry out its humanitarian mission there also."

All in all, however, one left the prisoners with the impression that they were basically being well treated. In the years that the war has been going on there have not been international press reports to the contrary.

And considering that the EPLF partisans followed the conversations very carefully--and those took place in English--it was apparently clear enough that they did not have any objection to the discussion of the question about the input of the Red Cross.

And so one can speculate on how conditions are in Ethiopia, when so relatively many Ethiopians wish to remain in Eritrea. It may be a question of elementary problems such as the consequences of the drought. There certainly are humanitarian problems in Eritrea. But nothing indicates that they are any less in Ethiopia.

On the contrary. And in addition there is the political judgment. In any case it is characteristic that it is apparently only among a part of the Ethiopian officer corps that they can find any real motive for going to war.

9287

CSO: 3613/131

DEVELOPMENT OF TIES WITH USSR DISCUSSED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 31 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] Nikolai Vasilyev, Minister of Land Improvement of Water Conservation of the USSR, President of the USSR-Ethiopia Friendship Society, stressed the growing all-round ties and co-operation between Socialist Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, including in the sphere of culture, during an interview with Novosti Press Agency Correspondent.

Highlights of the interview follow:

For the Ethiopian people the current year will go down as a particularly bright page in their history. Ethiopia is getting ready to mark the Tenth Anniversary of the People's Revolution and the establishment of a vanguard Party based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

Historically, ten years is not much but how much has the Revolution managed to do for the working people during this period! Deep-going progressive changes have been carried out during this period in all spheres of life in Ethiopia. The bodies of people's power--the associations of town dwellers and peasants--are working actively in towns and the countryside. Mass organizations of women and the youth, which were set up comparatively recently, have become a good support for the revolutionary authorities.

The nation-wide Literacy Campaign is in full swing, with more than half the country's population having been taught to read and write by now.

Throughout these years Soviet-Ethiopian relations have been developing successfully, including in the cultural sphere. A protocol on cultural co-operation between the two countries was signed in January, 1975, soon after the onset of the people's revolution.

The establishment of the Ethiopian-Soviet Friendship Committee in 1977 became an event of great importance. It includes prominent statesmen and public figures, with Comrade Yusuf Ahmed, Minister of Transport and Communications and COPWE CC member having been elected its President.

The intensification of Soviet-Ethiopian cultural ties was largely furthered by the "Agreement on Cultural Co-operation between the Union of Soviet

Societies of Friendship and Cultural relations with Foreign Countries and the Ethiopian-Soviet Friendship Committee, which was signed in Addis Ababa on May 3, 1978. This has given a start to an intensive exchange of exhibitions of works by Ethiopian and Soviet artists. An increasing number of works by Ethiopian writers is being translated into Russian, while books by Russian classical writers and Soviet authors as well as Marxist-Leninist literature are being translated into Amharic.

The Soviet people are watching with a feeling of profound sympathy and solidarity the confident advance made by Revolutionary Ethiopia which has chosen the road of socialist development. The Unveiling of Africa's first monument to Lenin in Addis Ababa was a highlight of the past year.

This fact evidenced the devotion of the working people of Ethiopia to the cause of socialism, expressing the indestructible friendship between the Soviet and Ethiopian peoples.

The Leninist ideas of internationalism find concrete embodiment in the development of cultural ties between the USSR and Ethiopia. The USSR-Ethiopia Friendship Society contributes a lot to the reciprocal acquaintance of the peoples to the two countries with their cultures, their achievements in socialist construction, art, and sport. The range of the society's activities is broad and diverse, and included the organisation of book and photo exhibitions, about Soviet-Ethiopian co-operation, the holding of meetings of the Soviet public to mark various Red-letter dates in the historical and cultural lives of both countries. It also includes the organisation of scientific and theoretical seminars studying the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism and scientific conferences on Ethiopian Studies in the Soviet Union.

The Society promotes the development of ties between Kishinev and Addis Ababa, which are twin cities. It has organized days of the USSR in Ethiopia, with constituent Union Republics--the Moldavian SSR, the Russian Federation, the Azerbaijan SSR, and the Lithuanian SSR taking part in these functions. The Society holds "What do you know about the Soviet Union?" competitions.

The cultural ties between the USSR and Ethiopia are steadily developing. There is no doubt that the visit to the USSR of Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces will further the expansion and deepening of Soviet-Ethiopian relations.

CSO: 3400/855

RECRUITS OF NMS LEAVE FOR TRAINING CENTERS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 1 Apr 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] Colourful welcome is being given to recruits of the National Military Service (NMS) in different parts of the country as they head towards their training centres.

The recruits are also accorded warm send-off as they depart from their home towns and districts to implement the NMS.

Present at welcoming and send-off ceremonies are regional and provincial COPWE Committee members, administrators, relatives and friends of the recruits and representatives of government departments and mass organisations.

The recruits undergo medical checkup before being enlisted for the NMS.

The farewell ceremonies are characterised by speeches in which the recruits are exhorted to give a good account of themselves during their training period and when they assume subsequent duties.

In wollo region, a banner was handed over to the recruits at a ceremony marking their departure from Dessie town.

Comrade Tessema Delay, COPWE Central Committee Member and COPWE Representative for Wollo region, said while addressing the recruits that every citizen has the obligation to stand in the defence of the territorial integrity of the Motherland. He praised the role of youth in the region in the effort to achieve the objectives of the Revolution.

In a similar ceremony held recently in Debre Berhan town, Shoa region, youth recruits received the Ethiopian flag from a veteran resistance fighter and pledged to renew the heroism of the forebears with socialist patriotism.

Meanwhile in Hararghe region, NMS recruits from the provinces of Chercher-Adal, Gara-Guracha, Habro and Wobera provinces passed through Harar town last Thursday.

The welcoming ceremony was attended by Comrade Negussie Wolde-Michael, Chief Administrator of Hararghe region and COPWE Central Committee member, Comrade Tekaligne Balcha, COPWE Central Committee Member and Head of Organizational Affairs in the Regional COPWE, and other officials.

SECOND WATER PROJECT UNDERWAY

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Excerpt] The 103 million birr second water project of the Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority (AAWSA) is underway.

This was disclosed Monday by Comrade Ayele Habte-Michael, the General Manager of the authority, when briefing Comrade Lemma Gutema, COPWE Central Committee member and COPWE Representative for Addis Ababa, and Comrade Zewde Teklu, Mayor of Addis Ababa and board-chairman of the AAWSA at the project office here.

Comrade Ayele said that to solve the temporary but often severe shortage of portable water supply for the residents of Addis Ababa rapid construction work is in full gear.

There will be no shortage of water in the city for the next eight or ten years after the completion of the project in 1986, the general manager pointed out.

To solve the existing problem in the city the expansion and proper maintenance of the Legedadi and Gefersa dams are essential as part of the 2nd water project, the general manager said.

He noted that water supply from Legedadi will be raised from 45,000 to 50,000 cubic meters a day through proper maintenance and improving and installing new equipment. He added that the Gefersa water supply will also be raised from 26,000 to 30,000 cubic meters daily, the general manager pointed out.

When the installation of new equipment at the Legedadi Dam is completed the supply of water will be raised from 50,000 to 150,000 cubic meters daily. The fully mechanized project will moreover be completed on time, it was noted.

The general manager said that for the execution of the project 9,000,000 birr has been secured from the European Economic Community donation and another 10,000,000 birr on loan, while the revolutionary government has earmarked 20,000,000 birr in tax-free equipment to be used for the construction work.

The work is being run by the West-German International Contractor Josef Riepl.

The causes of shortage of piped water during the last few years, particularly the current one, were said to be brisk construction activities on high and small buildings alike, rental housing and dwelling units by individuals and associations.

It was also noted that water consumption in the preparation of cement and related construction material, gardens at the premises of individuals and at public squares has created additional shortage of water.

CSO: 3400/855

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH LIBYA--A trade agreement providing for Ethiopian export of 1,700 tons of oil seeds, legumes and various spices to Libya during 1984-1985 was signed here yesterday. The agreement was signed by Comrade Shifesaw Bekele, General Manager of the Ethiopian Oil Seeds and Legumes Corporation, on behalf of Ethiopia and by the heads of three corporations on behalf of Libya, at a ceremony held at the Ghion Hotel. Present at the signing ceremony was Brother Kalifa Ahmed Bazalia, Secretary to the People's Bureau of the Libyan Socialist Jamahirliya to Socialist Ethiopia. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 30 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3400/855

DEVELOPMENT OF GAMTEL COMPANY

Banjul THE SENEGAMBIA SUN in English 9 Apr 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] CABLE and Wireless Limited has ceased to operate with effect from 1 April 1984. A release published by the Ministry of Works and Communications has indicated that The Gambia Government has taken over the 97 year old British company.

To know more about the implications of such a timely and welcome decision we spoke to Mr. Bakary Njie, Director of Telecommunications, who told us that, as a result of this, a new Gambian Telecommunication Company called GAMTEL has been formed and will be directly responsible for Gambia's national and international telecommunication services. Mr. Njie then from the word go appease the public by stating that the fear that now everything will crash at ex Cable and Wireless is not justified for he had no doubt, he said, that the standard of service will be maintained and can even be improved. Gambians hold the ex-Cable and Wireless for there are only two expatriates--the Manager and the Engineer--whereas there are fifty Gambians who in fact manned the business all along.

Talking about the new structure that is GAMTEL, Mr. Njie indicated that GAMTEL is a limited liability company with all services rendered, billed and paid for under the following set-up:

Board of Directors - General Manager - Financial Controller - Manager National Telecoms - Manager International Telecoms - Manager Administrative and Personnel - Manager Development.

Talking about Development Mr. Njie indicated that the French project which will start in June will replace the Banjul/Bakau/Serrekunda/Yundum/Brikama exchanges and these will entail the replacement and expansion of the external cable network in the mentioned areas. All these will ease the distribution problem currently encountered for all these exchanges will have a dual output. The execution of the French project will last 18 months.

The first and second phases covering only Banjul to Brikama, Mr. Njie gave us the following explanation: This is taken care of through a Japanese soft loan financing which is now being looked at very seriously and since Japan is helping the Government for rural electrification, the telecommunications director felt that this could go parallel with rural electrification.

He further revealed that the Japanese have accepted the officer and this is being studied in Japan. He was confident that a soft financing will be forthcoming for the rural telecommunication project, not only for telephone and telegraph services but also for rural educational television with emphasis on health and agricultural programmes to help educate the farmers with communal sets at bantabas which will be operated by solar panel or car batteries. This is projected in the 1985/86 programme.

But all the same Mr. Njie indicated that when the French project will be completed subscribers in Banjul could dial direct to Basse or anywhere in the country and vice versa.

On the international telephone, he also indicated that subscribers with a deposit will be able to dial direct from their number to anywhere in the world.

Talking about the Earth Station at Abuko, he said that it could help a national TV network when it starts to operate by providing it with required programmes from overseas.

Back to the handover issue Mr. Njie indicated that the ex-Cable and Wireless licence had a 25 year duration; it had already been renewed for four times and the last renewal was to have expired in 1987 but there was provision in the agreement which permitted the premature termination that has now taken place in goodwill and mutual understanding from both sides.

An agreement was also reached to repay to ex-Cable and Wireless its assets valued at D3,304,600 representing plants, equipments and buildings in Banjul and Abuko.

Turning on the situation of the 50 Gambians who were in fact running the company, he indicated that they were now absorbed in GAMTEL Co Ltd and will still enjoy the same salaries and benefits.

This was done by Government to sustain the motivation that allowed the former company to operate profitably in The Gambia. Another aspect of this is the reflection on the present staff of Telecommunication Department who will have their salaries adjusted to match those of the former Cable's staff. An homologation of these salaries will stimulate everyone concerned to do his utmost for the success of GAMTEL.

It should be noted that GAMTEL has also inherited all loans of the staffs of the ex-Cable and Wireless.

Finally, Mr. Bakary Njie told us that GAMTEL is a limited liability company and has to function on purely commercial basis and as such all users must be billed and paid for including Government. He had no doubt that with Gambians adequately trained in both telecoms and ex-Cable and Wireless will be able to respond to the new responsibility of GAMTEL as Gambia's national and international carrier.

...Reaction

THE Senegambia Sun asked Mr. Tony Wright, former Manager of Cable and Wireless and now technical Adviser to GAMTEL and representative of Cable and Wireless, his feeling about the Government taking over his company.

Mr. Wright expressed his disappointment at losing the last branch in Africa of Cable and Wireless. Nevertheless he indicated that he fully understood the Government's move. "We are very glad that negotiations for the takeover were held in a very cordial atmosphere and to the satisfaction of both sides.

Asked whether his company will lend his assistance to GAMTEL Mr Wright said he hoped that Cable and Wireless would help in GAMTEL's extension and development programmes in the new future.

He added his company would remain in The Gambia for twelve months advising GAMTEL on technical and other aspects of international telecommunications.

Asked how he sees the future prospect of GAMTEL, Mr. Wright said the new company would enjoy this initial period with the great improvement of the national network, which would take place over the next two years.

CSO: 3400/856

PORTUGUESE FIRM TO EXTEND PORT PROJECT

Bissau TO BPTCHA in Portuguese 26 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The contract for the Guinea-Bissau port project was awarded to the Portuguese firm SOTPC (Sociedade Metropolitana de Construccoes) last Monday. The contract was signed on the same day, at the Ministry of Transportation and Tourism, by Minister Manuel Santos and Albrecht Franl, president of the administrative council of SOTPC. Work is expected to begin within a few weeks, pending the arrival of the material.

At a cost of about \$26 million, the project is designed to increase the capacity for international maritime traffic and to make better use of the waterways to increase and facilitate shipments of agricultural products and merchandise.

The project consists in the construction of a new pier in Bissau, capable of simultaneously receiving two ships of up to 15,000 tons, served by a platform which will increase the usable area by about 15,000 square meters, and an administrative building. The project also includes construction of four river quays, at Finta, Caloxanque, Cadique and Cacine, maritime and river signal systems, provision of a boat for boundary marking and hydrographic monitoring, and reconstruction of the present long-range pier, to be devoted in the future to fishing operations.

The Portuguese firm will also repair or rebuild the ramps for fishing boats at Joao Landim, Sao Vicente, Farin, Bissau and Inxude. According to individuals connected with the project, this is the largest contract yet to be signed by a Portuguese firm within the framework of cooperation with the Portuguese-speaking African countries. The project was designed by the Dutch firm MDPCC, which will provide consultation services and will supervise the execution of the project, which should take about 3 and 1/2 years.

The financing for the project has been fully guaranteed by the Kuwaiti Fund, the PADFA [Arab Bank for African Economic Development], the Saudi Development Fund, the CFFC Fund, the World Bank and the Government of Guinea-Bissau. Bids for the port project were submitted by specialized firms from several countries; namely, France, Italy, Portugal, the FRG, the Netherlands, Spain, England, Lebanon, India, Norway, Brazil, Japan and the United States.

6362

CSG: 3462/325

BRIEFS

PORTUGUESE OPHTHALMOLOGISTS--As we reported in yesterday's edition, as part of the existing cooperation between our country and Portugal, a team of four Portuguese ophthalmologists, led by Professor Dr. Perrez de Oliveira, has been in Guinea-Bissau since 28 January. The physicians, who will remain here until 29 April, will see patients and perform surgery at the Simao Mendes Hospital and in the interior of the country. The team went to work almost immediately after its arrival. After visiting the facilities at Simao Mendes Hospital, the physicians began by treating patients in the ophthalmology infirmary. Since 30 January, examinations have been followed by surgical operations. On 6 February, the team should begin seeing patients in the interior. They will go first to Bafata Region, returning the following day, and will then continue to see patients at the Simao Mendes Hospital until 12 February. On 13 February they will go to the region of Oio, more precisely, to the Bissorã Sector, returning the same day. Following that trip, the physicians will spend the rest of their stay in Bissau, consulting and performing surgery. Patients will be brought in from the interior only if their condition is considered extremely serious; for normal cases, the team will be armed with the necessary equipment to perform minor procedures. This is the fifth ophthalmological team to come to this country under the auspices of the Gulbenkian Foundation. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTO in Portuguese 8 Feb 84 p 3] 6362

CSO: 3442/325

BRIEFS

BILLS ON ECOWAS, CEAO--The cabinet met this morning from 1000 to 1230 at the Presidential Palace in Abidjan under the chairmanship of the head of state, His Excellency President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the cabinet adopted a draft bill authorizing the president of the republic to ratify the agreement on Mali's membership in the West African Monetary Union. Also, on the recommendation of the same department, the president of the republic signed several decrees ratifying some agreements. --Supplementary draft agreement on aid for the West African Economic Union's [CEAO] military defense. --Supplementary draft agreement on the nonaggression of the CEAO. --Draft agreement on reexportation within the ECOWAS of goods imported from third party countries. [Excerpts] [AB202130 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 19 Apr 84 p 24]

CSO: 3419/595

COUNTRY'S NEW INVESTMENT CODE DISCUSSED

London AFRICA NOW in English Jan 84 pp 31, 32

[Text]

Faced with a net outflow of foreign investment of some \$50m in 1983, a mounting foreign debt of close to \$1bn and a general lack of investor confidence, the government of Liberia is instituting a new investment code to win back friends lost after the April 1980 revolution.

Frustrated with corruption, deteriorating infrastructure and a hopelessly inefficient government, most small and medium investors fled the country. Only giant enclave investors such as LAMCO in iron ore, Firestone in rubber and Scandinavian and West German timber concerns had the stamina to stay. But even the enclave investors limited their exposure and transferred whatever liquid assets they had out of the country. Since the revolution, no one has been terribly interested in investing — or reinvesting — in Liberia.

"For a time it was very bad here," said one Lebanese businessman. "Illiterate military men making use of their new found power. The stealing, fraud, extortion and whatever was terrible. It's still pretty bad but the people in power are beginning to understand the necessity of treading lightly on the toes of foreign investors."

Major-General Samuel Kanyon Doe and his colleagues on the Peoples Redemption Council (PRC) are going out of their way to be as accommodating as possible to the international finance and business communities. The government has successfully stuck to a hard-fought International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal. In October, Liberian representatives went to Switzerland with a \$975m list of project funding designed to improve the country's decaying infrastructure and agriculture. By most accounts the Liberians received a sympathetic hearing. Also in October, government financial officials began to put together a plan with the private banking community to reschedule Liberia's estimated \$800m foreign debt.

But perhaps most importantly for the private investor, the PRC has given the

Liberian National Investment Council (NIC) more staff, technical assistance and money. One of the first tasks of the NIC is complete: to revamp the national investment code to reflect the priorities of the government and to strengthen assurances offered to foreign investors.

"We have helped them to develop a code that links up the incentives to invest in Liberia with the needs of industry," said Krishnan Khosla, an adviser from the UN Industrial Development Organisation. "Incentives will be granted on an individual basis but we have worked hard to streamline procedures at the NIC and the government is extremely keen not to alienate new investors with too much red tape or other problems. They are in a tough position and they don't want to see it get any worse."

Khosla said that the salient points of the new code are as follows: investors will receive "ironclad" assurances against nationalisation or any form of government interference in business operations. Foreign investors will continue to be allowed complete freedom in foreign exchange transactions and 100% repatriation of profits. Export-orientated industries will be afforded full exemption from income tax for a minimum of five years with provisions for extension and full exemption from export tax. A number of industries, including export processing companies and companies producing "critical" goods for the local market, will enjoy 100% exemption from import duty on machinery, equipment, raw material inputs, spare parts and other necessary supplies for an "indefinite" period.

Investors will also be allowed longer lease periods on property and will be given subsidised utility rates in special cases. Products manufactured for the local market will be protected by tariffs if the maker can fill 75% of internal demand. Stricter guidelines for government

purchasing will also be introduced providing for the "indigenisation" of purchases. A new local banking code is being formulated that will apparently allow foreign investors more ready access to local financing for construction and, in certain cases, for equity.

In conjunction with the new code, a programme of contract and invoice monitoring is being instituted to stem losses from smuggling. Double invoicing is heavily practised in Liberia and many manufacturers counting on the local market have been undercut by products coming from neighbouring countries such as the Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone where the currencies are not as strong. (Liberia uses the US dollar.) Customs procedures are also supposedly being tightened up although officials admit that as long as government salaries remain low, the border will remain porous.

The major difference between the new code and the previous one is that greater incentives will be given to companies that meet NIC criteria. Companies investing in agri-business, agricultural implements production, forestry and fisheries, all areas that the Ministry for Economic Planning have given priority, will receive preferential treatment.

Industries willing to set up in the Liberian Industrial Free Zone Authority area on Bushrod Island near the Port of Monrovia, which is practically vacant despite a \$13m government investment, will also be favoured. Labour-intensive production will also be viewed favourably as will industries

willing to set up outside Monrovia. The government is especially keen on developing the area around Gbarnga in Bong County where there is moderately good infrastructure and access to roads leading to Guinea and Sierra Leone.

But most investors currently in Liberia say that despite the reforms, the government still has a long way to go before it can woo new investors.

"They give you a monopoly and then they don't honour it," said Selman Hosn, President of Metallum Liberia, which produces tin roofing and buckets. "If we don't get the help soon, I'm going to move my plant to Senegal where they give you free land and a 10-year tax holiday. It's almost impossible to work here."

Other investors maintain that the government tries to honour the incentives that are offered but management is terrible and inconsistencies often occur. "We make enough money to get along. Business is good for the size of the market," said Jorg Pein, a representative of BRAWICO, German-Liberian Cosmetic Co. "But the NIC is allowing other companies to have the same incentives and the market is too small to sustain competition like this. We will all go broke."

"Our investment code is being revised to reflect new realities," said Francis Dunbar, Assistant Minister for Planning. "We are broke financially, but there are still two things to our credit: our interest in co-operating and the Liberian people. And, in my eyes, that is enough to start with" ●

CSO: 3400/837

TAX COLLECTORS SOLICITING BRIBES TO BE EXECUTED

AB23080G Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The People's Redemption Council has said that anyone on the special tax collection force caught soliciting or accepting bribes will be summarily executed by firing squad. The decision follows the meeting of the Executive Committee of the council and the special task force of the council. An Executive Mansion release in Monrovia yesterday, Sunday, is quoted by the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY as saying that the decision applied to councilmen, police officers, soldiers, as well as revenue and customs officers of the Ministry of Finance. Last Friday, the chairman of the PRC [People's Redemption Council] and head of state, Commander-in-Chief Samuel Doe, appointed an 11-member committee to collect government tax arrears amounting to over \$26 million.

The announcement further mentioned that Liberian citizens caught offering bribes will face the same penalty as members of the special team while foreign businessmen caught in such acts will be immediately deported and their property confiscated by government. Meanwhile, the head of state, Commander-in-Chief Doe has ordered the Liberian Electricity Corporation, LEC, to erect light poles at the Barclay Training Center by 0900 this morning while the Ministry of Defense is to immediately prepare a firing squad to deal with violators. PRC members Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Samson, Lieutenant Colonel William Gold, members of the council in the special collection force have been designated by the council to ensure the enforcement of the decision. At the same time, the head of state has warned councilmen, cabinet ministers, and officials of government to show example to other citizens by paying all their taxes.

CSO: 3400/893

BRIEFS

DELINQUENT TAXPAYER PROPERTY CONFISCATED--Properties of delinquent taxpayers will be confiscated by government if they fail to settle the arrears specified by government. They have up till 28 April to make settlements. These delinquent taxpayers owe government more than \$26 million and the head of state, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has warned businessmen against attempting to offer bribes while the exercise is in progress as such action will not be tolerated by the PRC [People's Redemption Council]. Dr Doe has accordingly appointed an 11-member committee of senior PRC members to help the Finance Ministry in the collection exercise. [Excerpt] [AB220700 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Apr 84]

CSO: 3400/893

ROLE OF CMD, FAP IN DEVELOPMENT ANALYZED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR MATIN in French 27 Mar 84 pp 1-2, 5

[Interview with General Rabeony, head of the Military Development Committee (CMD), by Johary Rakotonirina on 19 March 1984 in Antanimora]

[Text] General Rabeony gave us an appointment at 2:15 pm precisely on 19 March 1984, at his office in the former Ministry of Defense in Antanimora.

Arriving punctually, we had only to wait long enough for an aide to clear the table where the No 1 man in the CMD had just had his lunch (he always lunches at the office during the CMD sessions).

He began first of all by chatting with us about the development of the African Nations Cup which was being played in the Ivory Coast, since he too is a great soccer fan. This was to allow him a few minutes of relaxation (for he had just emerged from a meeting) before discussing development, economic difficulties and other problems. And also to make the interview less formal, which pleased us greatly.

To one of our questions about the duties of the CMD, he answered that it "reflects a certain confusion in the concept people have of this body. And I will take this opportunity to remove any ambiguity." Thus this interview will also enable us to understand one of the most "unobtrusive" institutions in the Democratic Republic of Madagascar a little better.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: The CMD is a consultative body. According to your understanding, General Rabeony, to what extent has the advice you have provided been utilized? Are you satisfied? If so, why?

[Answer] The CMD has dealt with something more than 30 issues since its establishment in 1976, ranging from the military sector to the economy and including social matters. Now it is difficult for me to give you a percentage, even approximate, on the advice and suggestions of the CMD which have been adopted by the executive branch, particularly since the chief of state, who is the recipient thereof, has not made a point of reporting to the CMD on the decisions and the followup undertaken.

However, I can tell you that the following, among so many others, have been related to the proposals set forth by the CMD: the establishment of the Train Regiment, which is helping in supplying the population with goods of first

necessity and the collection of products; the creation of the OMIPRA, which has been entrusted with carrying out a vast rice production program; the Light Engineering Action Brigades (BLIGS) functioning on the eastern coast to maintain the access roads to coffee plantations; and assignment of new Development Army units to the insecure zones, for example in Bekily, Betroka, Sakaraha and Miandrivazo.

These achievements provide us with reason for satisfaction, because they reflect the contribution made by the CMD to the national development effort.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: The CMD is not a legislative body, but are there laws of which the CMD could be said to be the architect, or one of them? And if so, which?

[Answer] No, the CMD restricts itself entirely to its own consultative field.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: What in your view has been the main reaction noted within the FAP [People's Armed Forces] where the existence of the CMD is concerned?

[Answer] Let us note first of all that the CMD is one of the six bodies established for the Democratic Republic of Madagascar by the 1975 Constitution.

With this original military body, since none such is found in foreign armies, to my knowledge, the FAP have an expressive structure which gives them a voice in matters having to do with socioeconomic affairs and the national development program.

The FAP are no longer a simple tool of execution, but have been elevated to a role of which they can be proud, and their representatives are trying to take up this honorable duty in the best possible way.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: Why, in your view, was the army, that is to say the CMD, designated to provide advice on the "employment-higher training adaptation?" Might this mean that later this sector will be the focus of intervention by the army, in the strategic industries, rice production, road repair and supply, for example?

[Answer] As I have just told you, the FAP are now sharing in the national responsibilities. Moreover, they are experiencing our national realities and are sensitive to the major national problems. Thus I find it normal that the CMD has been asked to provide advice and make suggestions in connection with the "adaptation of employment to higher training with a view to national development," just as a number of other organizations have been asked to give their opinions on the issue of education overall.

And then, do not forget that this fits in very well with the duties of the CMD, which, according to the terms of Article 98 of the Constitution is "a consultative body whose opinion is required on any national program for defense or economic and social development."

This does not imply that the army will take action in this field subsequently.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: The CMD has been called upon to draft a national policy for road rehabilitation, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works. Will this involve the financing of road projects provided by various international bodies such as the World Bank?

[Answer] You are asking me here about the very purpose of the work in progress! I would only like to emphasize that what is important for us is a clear definition of the principles of action, determination of priorities, distribution of responsibility, and establishment of decision procedures and the conditions for close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works and the People's Armed Forces when it comes to the road repair project entrusted to the latter.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: Other officials say that this national road repair policy should not be only a policy of conception. What are we to understand from this?

[Answer] This means that we should pursue a policy based on our resources, rather than conceive of excessive or overly ambitious projects which will never be carried out because they go beyond the bounds of our potential in financial capital, technology, material resources and competent personnel. We entirely share this point of view, since it has always been the very basic principle of the CMD in its studies and its proposals.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: This policy is, then, drafted by the CMD and the Ministry of Public Works. In your opening statement, you referred to the decentralized collectives which should participate in negotiations and maintenance. But why do they not participate in this drafting of policy, since they too bear a part of the responsibility for this problem?

[Answer] It is true that the decentralized collectives do not participate in the drafting process at present.

This was not planned because it is a question of drafting a policy for the participation of the FAP in road rehabilitation, especially since the decentralized collectives already express their views within the various popular councils and even the National Popular Assembly.

However, I made a point of stressing in my opening statement how important the regular maintenance of the existing roads and the role and responsibility of the decentralized collectives in this connection are.

In fact, it will have served no purpose to deploy every possible effort and to undertake enormous expenditures if, after the rehabilitation work is done, no one, the decentralized collectives in particular, undertakes the responsibility for proper road maintenance and protection of them against any use involving abnormal deterioration.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: With the drafting of this national policy, the CMD seems to be moving directly from a consultative to an executive body through its

cooperation with one body in this executive regime. Should this phenomenon be viewed as an extension of the authority of the CMD?

[Answer] It is in no way an extension of the responsibilities of the CMD or its transition to an executive body. In fact, your question reflects a certain confusion in the understanding of this body. And I take this opportunity to eliminate any ambiguity.

The CMD is not a command body which has established units under its authority. It is an assembly whose opinion is asked in the course of the two sessions held annually. Following these sessions, the members return to their respective units and carry out their daily duties, while remaining concerned with the problems which might be of interest to the CMD. Furthermore, the CMD and its permanent bureau have no organic liaison or authoritative relationship with the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff. How then could it move into the executive sphere?

On the contrary, I think that working in coordination with a government body directly concerned with the subject is beneficial to the work of the CMD. In many other sectors of national life, moreover, is there not a search for better coordination and collaboration among the various sectors with a view to an effective linking of the efforts made?

MADAGASCAR MATIN: The FAP are "militants in uniform" who can henceforth engage in politics. What will the impact of this involvement be on the relations among the members of the CMD? On their work? On their discussions? Are there political factions represented within the CMD?

[Answer] In this connection, I do not believe that the military has confused "militants in uniform" with "party militants." Also, I have never noted political factions within the CMD. The animated and sometimes rather tense discussions in the general assembly are not based on partisan positions, but on a search for efficiency in the struggle for the economic and social development of the country.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: General Rabeony, you have presided over the destiny of the CMD for several years now. What do you think of this institution? Of its role? Of its contribution to the development of the fatherland?

[Answer] After this exchange of information, thanks to your initiative, for which I thank you, let us leave it to the sovereign people and the revolutionary regime to express an opinion on the manner in which the Military Development Committee serves and the contribution it makes to the effort to build a modern, developed, more just and more equitable society with a view to the advent of socialism in our country.

MADAGASCAR MATIN: Thank you, Mr President.

CMD CONCLUDES 1984 SESSION

Antananarivo MADAGASCAR MATIN in French 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 2, 5

[Excerpts] The time stipulated by Decree No 84-098 of 6 March 1984, convoking the first ordinary session of 1984 of the Military Development Committee [CMD] expired last Saturday. The very simple closing ceremony took place at Tsimbazaza Palace in the presence of many civilian and military personalities, including the presidents of the ANP [National Popular Assembly] and the HCC [expansion unknown], the members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and the government, the chief of the People's Armed Forces General Rakotoharison, and the elected representatives of the decentralized collectives.

After Major Andrianome Ranaivo, deputy rapporteur of the CMD read the decree closing this first session, President Rabeony summed up the work of the session to the extent confidentially permitted, the confidentiality being required by the regulations which specify that the president of the republic must be the first to be informed.

Difficult But "Interesting"

In general he recognized that what was asked this time of the "militants in uniform" was difficult, for the two proposed themes (improving higher job training for the purpose of development and elaboration, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works, of a national policy of road repair by the People's Armed Forces) are of prime importance for the future development of the country. Nevertheless the results were described as "interesting" by General Rabeony.

Increasing production, especially of food, since "famine was already the enemy of Andrianampoinimerina and is still our enemy now.... The nationalism of youth today is as important as that of their elders...and it must understand that the main goal is not for all of them to become officials but to work for the development of the fatherland.... On this subject the state is in the process of seeking means to help young people who are ready.... The work products from those who have been trained are better...!"

These are the main lines of the results of the debates on improving higher job training.

The Roads

With regard to roads: 18 proposals will be submitted to the president of the republic. Henceforth the People's Armed Forces will no longer be mere executors in this field, for they will also take part in directing national roads policy. All branches of the service will be directly concerned with the problem of road repair: from the Army Engineers to the National Gendarmerie, from the Air Force to the Development Army, and even including the Navy.

The decentralized collectives, the socialist "fokonolona" must also take part in the common effort. And he did not forget to thank those who are already maintaining the roads running through their districts.

Because of the participation by so many, General Rabeony said that the results of this session of the CMD are the result of cooperation among three institutions: the CSR, the government, and the CMD itself.

6108

CSO: 3419/556

SWAPO REPORTED PLANNING TO REENTER DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 9 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] SWAPO is in a fighting mood, and reinforced with its cofounder veteran black nationalist from Robben Island, Mr Herman Toivo ya Toivo, is planning to restake its claim on the domestic political scene with a vengeance.

First signs of a 'patriotic front'--styled movement being launched have emerged in the wake of the Damara Council's defection from the Multiparty Conference, and a deepening rift within SWANU--with what appear to be inevitable consequences.

Mr ya Toivo returned to Windhoek on Friday after a month-long tour through all Frontline states and other African countries including Nigeria.

He was accompanied by acting National Chairman, Dr Danny Tjongarero and deputy secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Nico Bessinger.

No press conference was given to thronging journalist at the capital's international airport.

This is expected later in the week ahead when greater clarity is expected or Mr Toivo's exact status in the party as well as SWAPO's new plans for political action inside the country.

No Hint

A summit between the movement's internal and exiled leadership in Lusaka four weeks ago had revised political tactics on the agenda but so far no hint has been given.

This came for the first time on Friday from Mr Bessinger.

He was asked about SWAPO's plans in the face of its de facto prohibition from staging public meetings in terms of the Notification of the Public Meetings Act.

The Act effectively prevents meetings by groups who espouse violent means at achieving political ends.

A notification by SWAPO's legal representatives with the Chief Magistrate in Windhoek just before the Lusaka summit, feel foul of the Act.

"Next time we won't be using the same channels," Mr Bessinger told newsmen at the airport.

He did not elaborate.

But fresh developments at home while SWAPO's leaders were out the country these past weeks, suggest the possible shape of things to come.

The Multiparty Conference is wracked with problems stemming from a gathering momentum in the SWA National Union, founder member of the MPC.

Antipathy

A growing tide of dissident antipathy to SWANU's continued participation in the conference are making things hotter by the day for the party President, Mr Moses Katjiuongua.

In an apparent effort to head off the tide he has called a special information conference for party delegates from throughout the country to explain the progress of the MPC and recent developments in and about Namibia.

This is a reference to reported secret meeting between a high-ranking SWANU delegation from Windhoek and a top SWAPO mission in Lusaka two weeks ago.

Mr Katjiuongua has accused SWAPO of attempting to bribe some of his righthand comrades to take SWANU out of the MPC and into alliance with SWAPO.

Similar trends are afoot regarding the Damara Council.

Last week the Council's extraordinary congress ratified a Central Committee decision to pull out of the MPC.

Contacts are said to have taken place between the Damara Council and SWAPO in Botswana in recent weeks.

With its military struggle in serious difficulty because of SA's successful teaming up with Angola in the Joint Military Commission, SWAPO has been forced to step more boldly into the Commission, SWAPO has been forced to step more boldly into the domestic political arena.

And with security and other parties on the left are coming to the fore.

Mr Bessinger was asked to react on the news of the Damara Council's withdrawal from the MPC.

Patriotic

"We regard any party who pulls out of the MPC as 'patriotic' because the MPC is an anti-SWAPO front.

"The Damara Council must clarify their position," he added.

The Council is on record as regarding SWAPO as an ally rather than a foe in the struggle for independence.

With the MPC already producing its proposed bill of Rights for an independent Namibia--this was announced also on Friday by an MPC spokesman, Pastor Lucas de Vries--the political race is gaining speed.

Faced with the MPC, SWAPO has emerged--not for the first time--as the nexus of a 'patriotic front' inside the country.

CSO: 3400/882

VOICE OF NAMIBIA MARKS SWAPO ANNIVERSARY

MB191550 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today, 19 April 1984, marks the 24th anniversary of the formation of the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, of Namibia. SWAPO is the only legitimate and sole representative of the Namibian people, which is heading the struggle against the illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist, fascist regime of the Pretoria ruling clique. Through its 24 years of heroic resistance, SWAPO has covered a glorious road for the liberation and independence of the fatherland. Throughout its bitter years of existence, the movement has been growing year after year into a battle-tested organization which is today a well-known political organization not only in Africa, but also far beyond its borders.

In August 1960, SWAPO challenged the South African racist regime by launching its armed attack and the occupation troops, an action which led to the formation of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia. Since then SWAPO has been fighting the racist regime and this struggle became ever more intensive up to date.

Way back in 1976, SWAPO's aims and objectives have been declared in its constitution. It has been mobilizing the masses of the Namibian people to be able to stand severe tests and difficulties so that they can bring the struggle for independence to its victorious end. SWAPO's aim is still to bring the country to its independence and to establish in Namibia a democratic government founded on the will of the people. It is because of SWAPO's political activities inside and outside the country that the political situation in and around Namibia has reached a crucial stage.

From 1960 up to this day, SWAPO has had at its helm its president, Comrade Sam Nujoma. Under his dynamic leadership, the Namibian people are still determined to wage the struggle against colonial oppression, foreign domination, and ruthless exploitation. We can say with pride that this great son of Namibia enjoys the support of the majority of our masses. Under his leadership, SWAPO has put it clearly and straightforward to the international community that the independence of Namibia should first be accompanied by a ceasefire followed by a free, fair, and democratic elections in conformity with

Security Council Resolution 435. He also on many occasions has made it categorically clear that in the absence of a genuine peaceful negotiation, we shall have no alternative but to continue and intensify the armed struggle until genuine independence is achieved in Namibia.

Therefore, the 24th anniversary of SWAPO's formation comes at a time when imperialism is on its offensive with South Africa at its forefront in the southern part of the African Continent. As we commemorate this date, racist South Africa is dodging implementation of Resolution 435. The regime is instead deploying its delaying tactics, organizing and sponsoring the so-called Multiparty Conference in Windhoek. This puppet circus is meant to be an alternative to Resolution 435. It is against this background that the struggle of Namibia's independence has now attained a decisive stage. Our independence is being held hostage by world imperialism. Our rightful demands for national liberation are being (?interchanged) with irrelevant issues.

Nonetheless, the past 24 years of heroic resistance served as a clear indication to our enemy that SWAPO will do everything possible to liberate Namibia. SWAPO did not wage the struggle in vain for the past 24 years. Our effort has brought the independence of our country nearer. Despite the enemy's intrigues, atrocities and killings, SWAPO did not waver. It has been carrying out its noble tasks as the president of SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma, has declared early in 1980, and we quote him: When the history of a free and independent Namibia is written one day, SWAPO will go down as having stood firm where others have wavered. It has sacraficed for the sacred cause of liberation where others compromise. End of quote.

Long live the SWAPO of Namibia.

Long live Comrade President Sam Nujoma.

Long live the Namibian revolution.

The struggle must continue. Victory is certain.

CSO: 3400/886

BRIEFS

DTA LEADER ASKS RECONCILIATION--The chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance of South-West African/Namibia, Mr Dirk Mudge, says the application of UN Resolution 435 for the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia will cost the international community more than \$450 million. Speaking at Omaruru, northwest of Windhoek, Mr Mudge said such a cost was enormous for a territory with a population of about one million. He said the \$450 million estimate covered only accommodation expenses for the UN personnel over a 7-month period before independence. Mr Mudge said the various political parties of South-West Africa/Namibia could be expected to spend millions of dollars on election campaigns. He said an alternative would be to bring about reconciliation among the political groups in the territory so that there would be no need for the organizations such as the United Nations to supervise elections. [Text] [MB131719 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Apr 84]

CSO: 3400/386

ANALYSIS OF MAITATSINE SITUATION PROVIDED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 23 Mar 84 pp 3, 7

[Article by Mahmoud Hamman Abu]

[Text] IF there is one thing that poses serious security problem in Nigeria today it is the now familiar anarchistic movement associated with the late Muhammadu Marwa, alias Matatsine. The eruption of this movement in Kano in 1980 exposed not only the nakedness of our security system, but more importantly the fragility of Nigerian economy and society.

Unless this movement is masterminded by some prominent Nigerians who exploit the credulity of poverty of the participants as was suggested during the Kano uprising, the recurrence of this phenomenon in other parts of the country in quick succession--Bulumkutu, Kaduna and now Yola--and with increasing degree of violence, suggests that the Nigerian governments are yet to grasp its true nature, and hence their inability to contain it.

Needless to say, there is a direct relationship between the perception of the real nature of a problem and the effectiveness of solutions to it.

Hitherto the Maitatsine phenomenon has passed off as a religious movement championed by Muslim fanatics. This is the unfortunate popular impression that has developed around it despite its unorthodoxy and mysteriousness. Judging by their conduct and mode of operation, even if the members of this movement claim to be Muslims they must belong to the dark margins of Islam and are using the name of the religion simply as a rallying cry in the absence of any concrete ideology for mobilising support but not to advance its cause whose tenets they patently contradict.

Composition

So, how do we explain the Maitatsine phenomenon? The answer lies in an examination of the composition of the membership and the events that brought them into being in the first instance.

From their general description, the members of the Maitatsine movement clearly consist mainly of fairly young men, in their late teens, early twenties and thirties. The majority of them also are usually not indigenes of the areas where they operate. A very important feature of the people is that although

they are largely concentrated in the urban areas, they are essentially of rural and specifically pastoral and peasant background. For instance it is said that the dominant group in the Yola uprising were pastoral nomads from the north, particularly Borno and neighbouring areas, popularly known as Dadawagga.

This peasant and particularly pastoral background of the people can be confirmed by the nature of their pursuits during their sojourn in the urban areas. Unlike the ordinary urban poor who tend to regularise their means of livelihood in professional and semi-professional activity, the generality of the members of the Maitatsine movement usually do menial jobs at random. Many of them are casual labourers, night-watchmen, finger-nail cutters, cap makers, petty hawkers of fruits etc. Some of them are casual Arabic students and these are based in the peripheries of the urban areas where they read their slates under the shades of trees.

Thus, on the whole, because of their recent influx into the urban areas, the members of the Maitatsine movement have not yet sufficiently adapted to urban life to develop the skills necessary for professional pursuits. The case of Musa Makaniki, the leader of the Yola uprising, who was fairly well-known motor machanic in Jimata-Yola, was quite an exception, although the leadership of the movement generally tends to consist of people who are really urban based, eg., Muhammadu Marwa himself. It is the followership that is predominantly rural.

This background of the generality of the members of the Maitatsine movement is very significant in understanding the roots of the problems posed by this phenomenon. This is because it is necessary to trace the cause of their exodus from the rural to urban areas. Some people may say that the attractions of the towns and cities in terms of the beauty of their physical structures and the apparent opportunity for jobs are responsible for the much-talked about rural-urban migration in Nigeria. However, the phenomenon we are talking about is not that of an ordinary migration but a clear case of an exodus which presupposes some disaster as its basic cause.

Events

It is at this point that we should cast our minds back to some important events that occurred in some parts of this country in 1973-74 and in 1983-84 and their lingering consequences, the significance of which has eluded the successive Nigerian governments.

One is here referring to the drought of 1973-74 that affected the whole of the sahelian belt of West Africa and whose effects spilled over the following years before the outbreak of the current drought that has already affected many parts of the same region in addition to a devastating rinderpest epidemic that devoured millions of cattle. A large section of Nigeria falls within the savannah and sahelian belts that experience periodic droughts and the vast majority of the inhabitants of these areas are peasants and pastoralists who constitute the backbone of the rural economy. These two occupational groups, but particularly the pastoralists, have been the

greatest victims of these disasters. This explains the collapse of the rural economy of these areas each time a natural disaster occurred.

The case of the pastoralists is particularly serious because, unlike the peasants who may resume normal production when climatic conditions improve, cattle, once lost, cannot be so easily restored. As a matter of fact the vast majority of cattle owners own them by virtue of inheritance and not because they could raise sufficient capital to purchase them. This explains why many pastoral nomads commit suicide during periods of severe droughts or on the outbreak of epidemics like rinderpest.

Thus the exodus of the actual and potential members of the Maitatsine movement can be traced roughly from 1973-74 following the drought of that year which devastated the rural economy of affected areas and sent many peasants and pastoralists into the urban areas of the northern states as refugees. Many of these refugees were not even Nigerians but people from neighbouring countries like Niger, Chad, Cameroun, etc, that were similarly affected by the drought. The current drought and rinderpest epidemic have produced similar effects as keen observers in the northern states can easily discern.

As important question that may arise in this discussion is why did the Maitatsine movement not develop until 1980 inspite of the presence of people like Muhammadu Marwa in Kano since the 1950s but especially since the late 1960s? The answer is that the urban areas of Nigeria where most of the refugees fled to had hitherto been able to absorb them, particularly those produced by the 1973-74 drought because the Nigerian economy was at this time fairly buoyant, thanks to the oil boom that characterised this period whose obvious manifestation in the urban areas was an unprecedented mushrooming of the construction industry where cheap unskilled labour that could be provided by the refugees was particularly sought for.

The failure of the Nigerian economy to develop agricultural and industrial infrastructure that corresponded to the levels of national incomes generated by the oil sector during this boom period, coupled with the mismanagement of the oil-generated revenue itself especially during the Gowon and Shagari eras, increasingly reduced the capacity of the urban areas in particular and Nigeria as a whole to absorb the kind of economic shocks that these natural disasters create.

Thus the latent danger that is inherent in the Nigerian economy which lacks any industrial sectors that could absorb most of its working population, has been laid bare when the economy experienced the recent crisis one of whose manifestations is the Maitatsine phenomenon.

When regularly employed people are losing their jobs daily because of the financial predicament of all the governments, and when no work is available for even professionally trained citizens, not to talk of the unskilled people drifting away from the shattered rural economy, the magnitude of actual and potential recruits of Maitatsine and similar anarchistic movements is quite alarming. It is unrealistic to think of an end to these uprisings so long as the economic problems that gave rise to them in the first instance remain unsolved.

Every Nigerian is now a living witness of the fact that contrary to the claim of the Shagari administration, the Maitatsine riots in Kano and Bulumkutu were not primarily caused by aliens. Otherwise the Yola uprising would not have occurred so soon after the expulsion of most of the illegal aliens in this country. The problems associated with these uprisings are indigenous and economic and hence we have to find solutions that are both rooted in the Nigerian soil and also economic in nature.

As we have noted earlier, the most important cause of Maitatsine uprisings is the collapse of the rural economy based mainly on the agricultural and pastoral industries. Hence the revival of the rural economy of the areas where this movement tends to develop should be given priority attention by the Federal state and local governments.

This can be easily done through, first the establishment on a massive scale of government farms both for crop and livestock production on the basis of labour intensity and the employment of simple techniques. This measure should be able to provide a basis for the second stage of the process of reviving the rural economy, namely the establishment of agro-allied industries which will further boost the capacity of the agricultural sector to provide greater job opportunity for the rural dwellers.

The effect of these measures will be two-fold. In the first place the direction of population movement between the rural and urban areas will be reversed so that the rural populace will remain in their localities even during periods of economic crisis. This will forestall the chances of the congregation in urban areas of masses of floating young men who can easily be drafted into all sorts of anarchistic groups.

Secondly, the revival and modernisation of the agricultural sector will stimulate initiative on the part of the rural populace to engage in similar enterprises on modest scaled and in their own localities. For this reason, the procedure for acquiring land for the government farms has to be really well worked out to prevent the deprivation of the peasants of their pieces of land on which they can test the experiences gained from the government agricultural enterprises and the agro-allied industries.

A successful revival and modernisation of the agricultural sector will also go a long way in dispersing the industries that are now concentrated in few urban areas through the simple method of tying the location of an industry to the source of its raw materials deriving from the agricultural sector. This will again not only decongest the urban areas but also provide the rural areas with even greater economic opportunities for stabilising their populace.

Another important measure that the Federal government in particular should take to improve the employment opportunities of not only the rural populace but also that of the urban areas and boost the economy generally is to prohibit certain categories of both Nigerian and foreign businessmen from engaging in the distributive trade even on the largest scale and compel them to take to real production.

The culture of distribution and general contracting that has gripped this country since the oil boom days has been so entrenched that even multi-millionaires hardly think of alternative ways of making more money other than through the distribution of commodities produced in other lands. It is this culture that is largely responsible for the problem of hoarding that this country is now suffering from. Government should insist that all businessmen who are known to have capital upto a stipulated minimum should not engage in the distributive trade and the banks should monitor the movement of their money in case they decide to use front men and still engage in the distributive trade.

More importantly, their import licences should be cancelled immediately and their distributive functions taken over by government consumer cooperative shops which should be revived, reorganised and expanded to cover all corners of the country for this purpose.

This is quite urgent because in a particularly bad case in Zaria, for instance. [Words indistinct] have discovered that one of the reputed millionaires in the town was a hoarder of not only imported [word indistinct] but also of guinea corn and maize bought from the stores of the strategic grains reserve of the Nigerian Grains Board and also from local farmers.

The continued scarcity of vital commodities is also associated with the long chain of middlemen/distributors that stand between the producers and consumers. Government should insist as a matter of policy that only one distributor, namely the consumer cooperative shop, should stand between the consumer and the producer of all vital commodities. This measure will eliminate the big time hoarders and compel them to engage in production and help develop the Nigerian economy.

All these are more or less long term measures for eliminating the Maitatsine phenomenon. There are, however, short term measures that should be taken to take care of the situation as it is now. Firstly, the police, the NSO and other security agencies of this country should live up to their responsibilities and wake up from their long slumber. Their performance so far leaves much to be desired. They cannot detect imminent civil disturbances and when their attention is drawn to such cases by concerned citizens they are slow to act. Worse still, on the basis of our experience so far with the Maitatsine uprisings, the police have not shown the capacity to give them battle.

It is rumoured that in their attempt to tackle the Maitatsine insurgents in Yola the police had cut down more innocent citizens fleeing their homes than the insurgents that they were supposed to confront. Certainly the police should be able to distinguish even in the heat of battle between an arms-carrying insurgent and an armless citizen struggling to escape certain death. For the police is supposed to rescue him!

Secondly, the Nigerian public should learn to organise itself for resistance on the outbreak of anarchistic uprisings. United you stand, divided you fall, one by one! All indications are that a handful of the Maitatsine insurgents had succeeded in holding to ransom large sections of the towns where they had

so far erupted, principally because the populace could not organise to resist them in time. The traditional rulers should be able to organise armed horsemen like they do during durbar festivals.

Finally, it is said that Numan in Gongola state and Combe in Bauchi state are other major strongholds of the Maitatsine followers. It is hoped that the security agents will take note of this and focus their searchlights on these areas with extra vigilance.

If the foregoing measures are taken the towns and cities of Nigeria will be rid of refugees fleeing the rural areas on the wake of each natural disaster especially if the proposed government agricultural enterprises are planned in such a way that they depend less on natural climatic conditions for their survival. This will in turn deprive the Maitatsines of followership and the security of this country will be enhanced.

CSO: 3400/863

CORRUPTION INCIDENTS IN COUNTRY NOTED

Bank Officials

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 23 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] POLICE in Lagos have arrested five top management staff and some directors of National Bank of Nigeria (NBN) Ltd. for allegedly receiving a kick-back of 12.3 million Naira from Bouygues Nigeria Limited.

Police sources told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the alleged kick-back was for a 22 million Naira contract to build a new head office of the bank at Broad Street, Lagos.

The sources said that among the recipients of the alleged kick-back was a proscribed political party and companies owned by directors of the bank.

According to the sources, the proscribed political party received 500,000 Naira while the bank officials and some companies fronting for the directors shared 1.8 million Naira.

The sources said that the alleged kick-back was channeled through two current accounts at a branch of the bank in Lagos.

The bank officials and the directors were also being questioned over another kick-back involving 500,000 Naira from the same contract.

Police sources said the amount was channeled through different banks in Lagos.

When contacted, the Commissioner of Police at the Force CID Alagbon Close, Mr. Usman Alabi Adeyemi, confirmed the arrests.

He said, "Investigations are going on on the alleged National Bank of Nigeria kick-back from Bouygues."

"Originally, we arrested five directors of NBN, but some were later brought in," Mr. Alabi Adeyemi added.

The General Manager of Bouygues Nigeria Limited, Mr. Jacques Gaudron, told NAN correspondents who called at his office on Wednesday that "the alleged

kick-back involves various companies and various individuals not including Bouygues."

According to Mr. Gaudron, some sub-contractors involved in the construction of the bank's head office were being interrogated by the police.

He said, "when the investigation is over, my company's name will not show up."

Mr. Gaudron, who said that the contract was worth 19 million Naira and not 22 million Naira added that the contract, which was awarded early last year was expected to be completed in 24 months.

The general manager said that Bouygues Nigeria Limited was executing 15 projects throughout the country and warned NAN correspondents not to publish the story on the kick-backs.

Mr. Gaudron said, "we're tired of this bad name for our company. If it continues, we will fold up and 2,000 Nigerians would be out of job."

He threatened to buy some newspaper pages to counter any publication about the alleged kick-back.

Teachers Institute Swindle

Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 25 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Emman Udoka]

[Text] ALL is not well at the National Teachers' Institute, NTI, in Kaduna.

An audit report has revealed large-scale swindling through ghost workers, unapproved petty cash payments and collusion with private motor mechanics to defraud the institute, following "a complete lack of internal checks" in the accounts and other departments.

Dated January 30 this year and addressed to NTI director, Malam Hafiz S. Wali, the audit report revealed that in the institute, "expenditure control is totally lacking."

"Expenditures are being incurred without reference to the provisions made for them in the institute's approved budget," the report said, adding that--as if this was not enough--there are numerous cases of expenditure incurred without the knowledge or approval of heads of department."

Further compounding the situation is:

--the absence of a competent chief accountant "capable of properly maintaining the accounts department."

--absence of a stores officer to rectify the institute's storekeeping system, said to have "broken down."

--absence of a purchasing officer to check the "high value of purchases" at the institute.

--absence of a transport officer capable of producing instantly the number of the institute's vehicles and their disposition.

During the audit checks, the incumbent senior transport officer was requested to submit a list of the institute's vehicles and their disposition. But, according to the report, "up till now, he has not done so."

Other posers in the audit report, now dangling before the NTI management are:

--Why an accounts staff was assigned with both preparation and physical payment of salaries, resulting in fraudulent inclusion of ghost names on the payroll and suspension of the erring staff.

--Why the senior transport officer should control both the operation and maintenance of the almost 60 vehicles at the NTI headquarters, and why servicing of the vehicles should be carried out by private motor mechanics who make dubious claims.

--Why accounts staff should open pay record cards and effect payment of salaries and allowances on them "without due care and control" and the approval of the departmental head.

--Why notices of termination of appointments are not sent to the accounts department in good time, resulting in fraudulent payment of salaries of terminated staff several months after their termination.

--Why the preparation of the Headquarters account for 1983 has "not even started yet."

--Why the accounts staff of the institute could not produce its final accounts at year ends, resulting in invitation of private auditors who charged the NTI a whopping 39,000 Naira in 1982 alone.

Pledging to contribute to the reversion of the ugly trend at the institute, the auditing firm, however, anticipates imminent resistance from certain quarters against reforms it intends to introduce to plug existing loopholes and reinforce internal checks.

The National Teachers Institute was established in 1976 to improve the quality of teachers by remote teacher training methods.

Police Probe of Bribes

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 27 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Yusuf Ozi Usman]

[Text] A special police squad to monitor activities of states' policy commands in the country has been set up by the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Etim O. Inyang.

The Inspector-General told officers and men of Kano State Police Command that the squad was aimed at controlling bribe-taking by police men and women.

He said the image of the force had been tarnished by members of the force who take bribes from drivers at road blocks.

The public, he said, now call policemen at road blocks "Wetin You Carry."

Mr. Inyang pointed out that this criminal tendency was due to lack of supervision from the top adding that zonal commanders and divisional police officers (DPO's) must stop feigning ignorance of this bribe collection by their men, otherwise they would be made to pay dearly for giving cover to the crime.

The Inspector-General directed that the standing instruction that men on patrol and road block duties must not carry more than five Naira should be strictly enforced and that regular surprise checks would be conducted on men at road blocks.

"If at the time of checking someone is found to be carrying more than the stipulated amount on him, he would be dealt with summarily," he warned.

Mr. Inyang stressed that one of the most difficult tasks facing them today was how to redeem the image of the police. The public and newspapers, he said, had been pouring venoms on them "but we have become defenceless because of the way some of you perform your duties."

He maintained that in an effort to retain their good name and ensure the restoration of public confidence in the force, no price would be too much to pay.

He said one of the measures the Federal Military Government had taken to improve police image was the establishment of police community relations committees at state, zonal, divisional and station levels.

Mr. Inyang pointed out that the idea was to involve respectable honest, community, students, union leaders, vice-chancellors of universities, market women, leaders, successful business men and other people in the maintenance of law and order.

The Inspector-General who is on state wide tour of the police command yesterday paid a courtesy call on the emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, and visited the Kazaure Local Government where he also addressed men and officers of the command.

Fraud in Abuja

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 29 Mar 84 p 16

[Article by Abdullahi Idris]

[Text] A BUSINESSMAN, Chukukah Obi, arrested in Port-Harcourt by the INTER-POL two weeks ago in connection with the alleged 15 million Naira fraud in Abuja, yesterday appeared before a Suleija Chief Magistrate's Court.

He pleaded not guilty and Mr. E. Jiya, for Niger State D.P.P. prayed the court to allow the prosecution one last adjournment to obtain some vital documents which he said were at the Force C.I.D. in Lagos.

He also said investigations into Chukukah Obi's case had just begun, adding that the police would also like to join Obi's case with that of 38 other accused persons now on bail. The 39 accused persons were also in court yesterday.

Chief Magistrate, Alhaji Usman Muhammed rejected an oral application for bail made by Chukukah Obi's counsel. He asked the counsel to file formal application for bail.

The chief magistrate ordered the accused persons to be remanded in police custody and adjourned the case to July 4 for mention.

All the 40 accused persons, some of whom were arrested early last year, are being charged for forgery, theft and criminal-breach of trust.

CSO: 3400/865

MILITARY GOVERNMENT ADDS CIVILIANS TO LEADERSHIP

London AFRICA NOW in English No 34, Feb 84 p 46

[Article: "Living Under the Military Again"]

[Text]

Two months since taking power, Nigeria's ruling military council has been making efforts to make its presence felt both on the domestic and international fronts.

At home the situation has been as close to normal with the recent re-opening of land borders with the neighbouring states. In a nation long used to military rule nothing exciting marked the re-emergence of the soldiers except that the men in uniform with the gun have come to replace the civilian leaders, most of whom are behind bars awaiting their fate.

SMC Chairman Major-general Buhari had stated that all military men given political posts were to regard them as military postings. Nevertheless, different styles and approaches have been noticed with some of the new rulers especially among the governors in the states. Oyo State Governor Lt. Col. Dayo Popoola Ibadan meted out an unusual reproof to civil servants for being late, making them hold their ears and do frog jumps.

The past period saw the establishment of three tiers of government: the 19-man Supreme Military Council (SMC) consisting mainly of generals and brigadiers, including one civilian as the legislative — executive body at the apex and below it the National Council of State (NCS) consisting of SMC members and the 19 states.

Next to the NCS is the Federal Executive Council (FEC) where membership includes military as well as 11 Cabinet Ministers representing each of the 19 states.

Of all the appointments made by the military none was more eagerly awaited than the composition of the civilian Ministers. The coup-makers, having removed all known politicians across the board since 1979, were left with no organised political group. As it turned out, the SMC turned mainly to the

academic world and few in private business to serve as Ministers.

The reason for the long time taken in assembling the Ministers had been due to the fact that prospective candidates approached, turned down the offer, wary of the risk involved in serving, only to be accused later of corruption.

Important jobs given to the men drawn from the academic circles are: Finance to Dr Onaolapo Soley; Petroleum and Energy to Dr Tam David-West, both of Ibadan University. The new Oil Minister David-West, a virologist, comes from oil-producing Rivers State. He is well known as a newspaper columnist and persistent critic of the former NPN government in his home state.

Others with university backgrounds, holding Cabinet posts are Dr Ibrahim Gambari External Affairs — until recently he was at Ahmadu Bello University and then at the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs. Dr Mahmud Tukur (Commerce and Industry), said to be close to General Buhari, like Dr Gambari was a lecturer at Ahmadu Bello University.

Of the 11 civilian Ministers, only Chief Adigun — Planning Ministry, Alhaji Bukar Shaib (Agriculture), Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullali — Education, Science and Technology had any experience in government. Two other Ministers, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman for Mines, Power and Steel and Dr Nyong Esan for Works and Housing, are both engineers. Completing the team are two lawyers Alhaji Abdullali Ibrahim for Transport and Aviation and Chike Ofodile, Attorney General and Minister for Justice.

As under previous military regimes the tempo of government action is based on the triangular axis involving the Minister, the Permanent Secretary and Dodan

Barracks — the Supreme Military Headquarters — acting together. Military rule in the past has emphasised the role of Permanent Secretaries whose bureaucratic methods tended to accord more with the disciplined and peremptory requirements of the military mind. It means the civilian Ministers would need to learn the ropes fast to become part of the machine.

The regime has been wooing the traditional rulers, emirs and chiefs, through whom it expects to establish indirect rule. They no doubt showed signs of their concern of current events by seeking clarification on two matters, one of which is the regime's draconian detention decree.

The regime's international involvement has been no less busy. Presidents Nimeiri and Sekou Touré both called in at Lagos to see the new rulers. The conflict in neighbouring Chad equally occupied the SMC's attention. But the more important issue has been the regime's quiet efforts to win acceptability following very strong criticism against it in some parts of the world. Official delegations visited East Africa, neighbouring West Africa, the Middle East as well as Europe and the Americas. Similar delegations of government financial experts and bankers have been commuting between Lagos, European and North American centres on debt rescheduling and other matters.

The firepower of the Nigerian press has not in the least abated since the military came to power. However, for the first time in Africa a newly established military regime had no absolute monopoly over views on "what went wrong in the past." A small but vocal section of former government officials managed to leave the country just days after the coup. The group comprising one notable businessman and former Minister Umaru Dikko provided an alternative viewpoint to the information coming from Lagos ●

CSO: 3400/851

PURGES OF FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID BEGINNING

London AFRICA NOW in English No 34, Feb 84 pp 43-45

[Article by Ben Asante: "The Purge Is On"]

[Text]

There can be no business as usual after the recent New Year eve military seizure of power in Nigeria. The new ruler and Head of the Supreme Military Council (SMC), Major-General Mohamed Buhari declared in a firm tone that the military would deal ruthlessly with anyone charged with plundering the nation's wealth.

Claiming his 19-man SMC was an offshoot of the 1975 Murtala/Obasanjo regime, General Buhari said this time there would be no toleration of the nonsense of legal technicalities and litigation in dealing with alleged nation wreckers whom he accused of corruption, squandering, as well as misuse and abuse of public office.

General Buhari's mentor, the late Gen. Murtala Mohamed, dubbed "Man Hurricane," is Nigeria's latter-day hero whose pictures are to be seen on the walls of some houses as well as in taxis and public transport in parts of the country. Gen. Murtala's fame rests on his no-nonsense unorthodox approach to government, particularly the wholesale dismissal of thousands of civil servants in 1975 in a move designed to purge Nigeria of corruption following the overthrow of the Gowon military regime.

Overnight, 10,000 public servants of all ranks, including the "super-perms," permanent secretaries who ironically were the products of military regimes, were summarily dismissed. In some cases, heads of department received instructions to find people to dismiss to meet pre-determined quotas. Time was to prove that even the popular general's harsh methods were no panacea.

Despite the fact that many were hurt by General Murtala's strong-arm methods — some families still point to the scars

inflicted by his government — his unusually blunt style proved very popular with the ordinary people.

The national mood in 1975 seemed to have gone down well with the general's sharp, short shock treatment. Murtala's added advantage was that he did not stay long enough in power for people to associate his mistakes with his earlier populist moves. He was gunned down in an abortive coup only six months after he had seized power. He died when he was still riding high on a tide of popularity.

To link the two-months-old Buhari regime with the Murtala era is to further heighten people's high expectations. Promises of ending corruption and economic suffering made in the early moments of the coup naturally raised expectations in the public mind which tended to link such declarations with prompt action, public purges and results. So, some sort of demonstration was necessary to show things had indeed changed. But General Buhari seemed to have had second thoughts on any precipitate action. He told an interviewer: "Here in Nigeria rumours fly about a lot and, once you ask people to provide the evidence, you are faced up with a blank. The need is, therefore, to do a thorough investigation before meting out punishment." By early February the regime announced its intention to bring former officials before public tribunals.

Fear that Nigeria under military rule might abandon the rule of law had been expressed by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists following the overthrow of the last elected government.

In the lull that followed the brief euphoria of the coup, the national press in particular cried out for action.

It urged the new military rulers to take a cue from Murtala Mohamed. It was not long before their pleas were answered: the present wave of purges began. Within a fortnight hundreds of people had been compulsorily retired, summarily dismissed or transferred *en masse* to various posts ranging from the security services to the public services.

Even before the targetted institutional purges, the coup of December 31 had effectively dislocated the life of thousands of people including their dependents.

In all, nearly 3,000 people, including the President, Vice-President, 19 governors, Ministers and commissioners, political appointees and elected representatives in the National and State Assemblies and their aides lost their positions. In the capital, Lagos, and in various state capitals, former government officials and politicians were locked up. A special Detention Decree issued by the SMC gave the security agencies and the Chief of Staff, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, powers to detain people on various grounds, including security, and to renew the order every three months.

According to Brig. Idiagbon, nearly 700 former officials had been in detention by late January, of whom 200 had been cleared and released.

At the last count, as many as 71 very senior officials of the former government and political parties were being incarcerated in the nation's maximum security Kirikiri prison in Lagos. Among them is Vice-President Dr Alex Ekwueme, a number of civilian governors and former Cabinet Ministers. Also held in detention is the former Biafran leader Chief Emeka Ojukwu whose surprise detention was explained by SMC member Brig. Mamman Vatsa as resulting from his political activities in the National Party of Nigeria (NPN).

Former President, Shehu Shagari, is the only top official not held at the maximum security prison and was last known to be under house arrest at Ikoyi in Lagos. There had been talks of transferring him to his home state in Sokoto.

So far relatives of the detained former officials have been allowed to visit them after being granted special permits. According to some reports, the detainees appear to be bearing up quite well under the hard prison conditions. Brig. Magoro, SMC member and Minister of Internal Affairs, who visited the prison, said Dr Ekwueme had complained about the conditions.

There had also been complaints about poor facilities such as bad drinking water, mosquitoes; some of the older inmates were suffering from skin infections. Serious violence erupted in the Kirikiri maximum security prison when long-term inmates

broke out and attempted to attack the former leaders: the inmates had been resentful of what they saw as their preferential treatment.

In prison the former politicians are being asked to purge themselves. Those suspected of having amassed wealth have been told: "No release until you agree to hand over the money to the authorities," and, relatives of detainees have been urged to persuade them to do so. According to official sources, searches of some of the detainees' residences turned up huge sums. Investigations had even been made in faraway places outside Nigeria. A list of well over a dozen Cabinet Ministers and former governors have been submitted to some European governments with the request that their accounts be located, the money seized and eventually transferred to the local authorities. It is highly unlikely that these requests will meet with any favourable response and certainly not from the private banks.

These behind-the-scenes efforts apart, the government's purge of its officials has been making the headlines in Nigeria. It has affected the army, air force, navy, the police force, the National Security Organisation (NSO), the customs service and the top echelons of the civil service: the permanent secretaries, 17 of whom have recently been compulsorily retired.

A few days after the coup, General Buhari met the permanent secretaries and other top civil servants and praised them for giving good and sound advice to the politicians who, however, had not heeded it. Then this convivial atmosphere suddenly changed and from being lauded the permanent secretaries found themselves axed.

Also falling under the axe are 23 air force and 17 naval officers. An unspecified number of army personnel, including officers, have been retired and several others sent on unprecedented mass transfers completed in a matter of days — an exercise thought to be not unconnected with security rearrangements. Within the police force itself, 34 senior officers have been retired and some dismissed. They have all been told not to travel outside the country. The former Inspector General of Police, Sunday Adewusi, has been under house arrest.

His successor, Etim Inyang, promised to carry out a major shake-up in the 90,000-strong police force with a view to getting rid of bad elements who had impaired the force's image.

The purge of the police reduced the numbers on the beat with a resultant increase in armed robbery in the Lagos area. One daily newspaper opined that unruly policemen at checkpoints were preferable to the menace of armed robbers on the streets.

The NSO, the faceless secret police and intelligence agency, came in for one of the severest purges. As many as 66 senior men have been kicked out, with 65 of them retired — and one actually dismissed from the service — on various charges of corruption and divided loyalties.

Next to fall under the Buhari purge were the customs service. Finance Minister Dr O. Soleyé stated that as many as 240 customs officers from this important government revenue-collecting agency had been kicked out for misconduct ranging from smuggling, forgery and defrauding to impersonation. The purge of the customs services, according to Dr Soleyé, "remains a continuous feature which will deter potentially corrupt officers."

The series of compulsory retirements and dismissals of officials in the public sector in recent weeks is an indication of the military regime's determination to make good its pledge of clearing up the social and economic life in the country. It is expected that the purge will soon spread to the many parastatal organisations and governmental agencies, several of which have long been known to be inefficient and a drain on the economy, regardless of whether a military or civilian government is in power.

Though the purge in some organisations appears to have been well received in some quarters, there are commentators who have counselled caution, realism and even-handedness in the detection and punishment of suspected partisan, corrupt or disloyal officials so as to ensure that

innocent people do not suffer.

The speed with which some of the purges were accomplished appears to have left doubts as whether witchhunting rather than thorough investigation had been the basis of some of the past purges. To be less than fair is to make innocent people suffer and to create new problems which will only re-emerge in the future.

Some observers consider that wholesale dismissals and purges alone will not yield the expected social and economic results unless accompanied by a realistic re-examination of the average Nigerian's attitude to work and productivity for wages earned. Unusually high and false economic expectations, rooted in the heady days of Nigeria's oil wealth, has pushed prices and rented accommodation to an artificially high level. Nowhere else in the world are skyrocketing house rents amounting to several thousand naira paid three to five years in advance. Even houses for the low-income groups have not been spared. This is the major contributing factor to the rat race and cutting of corners by both the lowly and highly placed. Everywhere one finds the attitude of "get rich quick" but hardly matched with hard work.

It is early days yet for the military rulers but it is the way they address themselves to these basic needs and the maintenance of Nigeria's characteristically free and boisterous climate while preserving personal freedom that will determine any judgement on their latest intervention in the country's politics ●

CSO: 3400/851

LAGOS COMMENTARY ON STATE OF ECONOMY

AB070430 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Emma Olusigbe commentary]

[Text] When recently the minister of finance, Dr. O. Soley, made known the state of the nation's account, he was merely restating the obvious. The citizenry of this nation had, before his disclosure, known that the economy was in a mess. They knew that the economy was convulsing and needed an urgent treatment.

The indicators of this poor economic state of affairs have been very well known by all and sundry. There has been galloping inflation and unemployment. The situation has been such that many people can no longer afford three square meals a day. What perhaps they did not know was the extent to which the nation was internally and externally indebted. There were speculations here and there as to the country's financial strength. But the minister's revelation has put to rest all these speculations.

We now know that over 30 billion naira is owed by the state governments apart from the country's accumulated overdraft of about 31 billion naira. We also know that the Federal Government is owing its internal and external creditors about 27 billion naira. On the whole, the nation's total debt today stands at about 40 billion naira. This is the state of the country's financial account; invariably, this is the state of the nation's economy.

Several factors have been held responsible for the gloomy and excruciating state of our economy. The celebrated reason professed by the ousted civilian administration is rapid decline in our expected national revenue from oil owing to the oil glut and global recession. While this reason may no doubt have affected our revenue-earning capacity, the question is, did the last civilian administration manage our resources properly? This is where the oil glut expansion for the debt debacle by the ousted civilian administration becomes very spurious. That explanation ignores the fact that our policy makers in the Second Republic as well as our custodians of public funds lacked financial discipline. There was utter disregard for prudent financial management. Both the then federal and state governments embarked on white elephant projects which made no profit and indeed required more subventions to help pay staff salaries and other recurrent expenditures. Meanwhile, they opened

the gates for the importation of all sorts of things which swallowed our hard-earned foreign exchange.

We must now ask ourselves what we can do to salvage this economy from total collapse. From the way things stand now, what we are owing exceeds our income and our debtors insist that we must liquidate our debts before we can obtain loans to import raw materials. There is therefore, no gainsaying that we have come to a stage where all hands have to be on deck if we are to tread on the path of economic recovery. In the first place, we must learn to live within available resources. This means that we must drastically reduce our love for foreign-made goods. We have the natural resources, we have the manpower. What we lack is the ability to husband the resources to meet the societal goal of progress. This is not the time to ask for salary increases. This is not the time for us to continue to scramble for imported rice. We must develop our locally-produced food. We must all learn to improvise and check our urge for imported food.

However, in the long-term strategy, our policy makers must readopt an industrial development strategy that would commit Nigeria irrevocably to the task of industrialization. India, in the space of 35 years since independence in 1947, has grown from a predominantly agricultural country to the sixth largest exporter of industrial machinery and equipment. South Korea has in the space of less than 30 years from 1962 to 1982 [as heard], achieved a total transformation of her economy to become a major exporter of industrial goods and technology. Taiwan has followed the same path. These are lessons we cannot ignore under our present circumstance.

The sum total of what is being asserted is that this nation should be more and more inward-looking in order to present a situation whereby we end up being a chronic debtor. With grim determination on the part of all of us, we can turn the situation around for the better.

CSO: 3400/885

BAN ON RICE IMPORTS SHOULD NOT BE INSTITUTED HASTILY

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 9 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial in the column "Star Comment": "The Rice Importation Issue"]

[Text] The military intervention came to the vocal relief of the famishing masses who had been conditioned to accept their lot in the midst of plenty as a matter of fate. The slogan 'Austerity Measures' was deftly coined by the corrupt rulers to obscure the vision of Nigerians while they devoured their wealth and ruined the nation's economy.

The worst development was the situation where some of our erstwhile export products; such as palm oil and rice turned to be imported commodities now ironically helping to drain our lean resources.

Statistics show that among the imported commodities, rice has now assumed a lead as our foreign exchange consumer.

This discomfoting development has generated some concern among critical-minded citizens. It is probably in over-reaction to the intolerable turn of events that some people are now calling for a ban on the importation of rice.

This may sound plausible. It is, however, necessary here to warn early enough against the danger of rushing things, or doing the right thing at the wrong time. This is because experience has shown that rash decisions borne out of temper and emotion have often turned out to be counter-productive and regrettable.

We still have memories of the bitter experience of yester-years when the importation of salt was banned. It all started when an indigenous company that was poised to produce salt locally, coerced the then Federal Government into banning the importation of the commodity, in order to protect its economic interest.

This request was easily granted without anyone taking the trouble to find out whether the company was capable of meeting the consumption demand. The result was, of course, painful and the nation paid dearly for this because as an emergency measure salt, had to be rushed in by air to ease the ugly situation.

The present government is apparently working to alleviate the ills here and solve problems but must not take the rash steps. It had made public its ten-points programme aimed at salvaging the nation from the throes of economic strangulation occasioned by bad government and malfeasance.

Massive food production, possibly, through mechanized agriculture is one of the issues that are to receive priority in the scheme of things. For sure, it will take a year or two for efforts in this direction to materialise. It is therefore understandable that the Federal Government as a short-term measure has placed order for rice from Thailand to supplement local production.

Until the nation attains self-sufficiency in the field of food production, it will be suicidal now to talk of banning the importation of such essential commodity altogether. What we advocate is a policy toward eliminating the need for rice importation within the shortest possible time.

This country has got land capable of producing more rice than the exporting countries are endowed with. What is lacking is the sincerity of policy and a determination to exploit our land resources to advantage.

CSO: 3400/892

BRIEFS

LAW ON BUSH BURNING--SOKOTO State Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Isa Muhammad Argungu, said last week the law prohibiting the destruction of forests, "protected trees" and bush burning, was still in force throughout the state. He told the New Nigerian in his office that sections 50 to 51 of the Northern Nigeria Laws 1963 provided for a penalty of 200 Naira fine or one year imprisonment for anyone caught burning bushes unlawfully. Alhaji Isa said anybody caught unlawfully destroying or tampering with protected trees in a protected forest was liable to a fine of 100 Naira and six months imprisonment. Such persons, he said would, in addition, be asked to pay fees and royalties on the trees destroyed as might be determined by the court. He said the local government councils had copies of the law in their possession. He said tracking down the culprits could only be made with the co-operation of the people. On fertiliser, the commissioner said they were expecting to receive 120,000 tonnes this year from the Federal Government. He said consignments had already started arriving and were being stored at Gusau, Talata Mafara, Sokoto, Argungu, Bunza, Gummi and Wurno centres. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 13 Mar 84 p 9]

INSECTICIDE IMPORTS--A GROUP of farmers in Kaduna have urged the Federal Military Government to import more pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers into the country to ease the suffering of the farmers. The farmers told the Kaduna State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Musa Yerima, last Friday at the Kaduna Garden that most of their crops were destroyed during the last planting season by pests and that they found it difficult to obtain pesticides. They complained that fertilizers did not get to them before planting season adding that when they got them, they were not always enough. The farmers complained of lack of enough seeds for planting, and that they did not get enough market for their produce. The commissioner advised the farmers to use the local method instead of relying solely on the government for the supply of seeds. He said they could also prevent the spread of pests by keeping their farms free of weeds and by not planting those things that could invite pests to their farms. The Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Alhaji Sani Katsina advised the farmers to form co-operative societies through which their problems could be channeled to the appropriate authorities. He gave assurance that a representative of the ministry would be sent to assist them in the formation of the union. [By Mariam Aieshinloye] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 13 Mar 84 p 9]

OIL EXPLORATION--MORE than 23 million Naira has so far been spent on oil exploration in Borno State, the Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Professor Tam David-West has said. He told the Military Governor of Borno State, Major-General Abubakar Waziri at Government House yesterday that the money was used in the provision of infrastructures and exploration work. He said feasibility report prepared for his ministry indicated that all the six oil wells would be productive. Governor Waziri in his reply said it had been observed that the activities of the NNPC in the state had declined following the death of its senior official directly in-charge of exploration work. Yesterday, the Head of State, Major-General Muhammadu Buhair said the Federal Military Government would continue to invest in the exploration and development of oil industry despite the recession. He told the President of Elf Oil Company of France, Mr. M. Pecquer, who called on him at Dodon Barracks, that Nigeria would co-operate with major oil companies in the country for the continued development of the various sectors of the industry. He said that the country had lost millions of Naira as a result of illegal lifting of crude oil. [By Ibrahim Biu] [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 23 Mar 84 p 1]

WORK STOPS AT AIRPORT--WORK has stopped on two projects costing 1.7 million Naira at the Maiduguri Airport. The projects are the new terminal building at the airport and the provision of furniture. Both contracts were awarded to Kotoko Construction Company in 1982. The area manager of the Nigerian Airport Authority (NAA), Malam Musa Kazah, made this known last week while exchanging views with the Military Governor of Borno State, Major-General Abubakar Waziri. He said that work on the projects were abandoned by the contractor due to alleged inadequate finance. The manager however told the governor that he had invited the construction company to Maiduguri in order to discuss the issue with him. Governor Waziri assured the management of the airport of his administration preparedness to assist the staff of the company. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 26 Mar 84 p 9]

FALL IN CURRENCY CIRCULATION--The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, has said that the total currency in circulation throughout the federation as at September 1983 fell by 12.8 million naira as against over 17.7 million in August last year. This is contained in a CBN monthly report which stated that this resulted from a decline in February and April 1983 in contrast to an increase of about 159.1 million naira in August of the same year. The report said the public sector absorbed a greater proportion of available bank credit than the private sector, pointing out that about 55.9 percent aggregate bank credit as at September ending 1983 went to the government compared with 46.8 percent in 1982. [Text] [AB100726 Lagos International Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Apr 84]

BAN ON PASSPORTS--BAN on new passports is to continue until a system that will ensure the elimination of malpractices in some of the country's passport offices is evolved, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Brigadier Mohammed Magoro, has said. Brigadier Magoro said during a visit to the Kano Passport Office that the ministry was currently working out the modalities of ensuring a smooth take-off of the system. He added that a meeting of all the principal passport officers in the country would soon be convened to deliberate on the issue. Earlier, the state principal passport officer, Alhaji Abubakar Kabir told the minister that the office realised 134,030 Naira and issued 7,258 passports last year. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 5 Mar 84 p 1]

ANAMBRA GOVERNOR'S PROMOTION--The Anambra State Governor has been elevated from his former rank of Navy Commander to Navy Captain. His promotion was made known to him at Lagos after the Nigerian Navy Council had given its confirmation. Captain Alison Madueke arrived Anugu yesterday from Lagos after attending a meeting of the Council of States. [Text] [Enugu DAILY STAR in English 8 Mar 84 p 1]

RICE DISTRIBUTION--Forty-six thousand bags of rice valued at N1.6 million allocated to Anambra State by the Federal Government have arrived for distribution. Briefing the DAILY STAR on the method of distribution of the commodity, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr R.J. Adibuah, said that out of the 46,000 bags, 31,000 would be distributed under direct allocation to ministries, parastatals, government companies and agencies. Mr Adibuah said his ministry had taken delivery of the first consignment of 25,512 bags out of the allocated 46,000 while the balance might have arrived, awaiting delivery. He revealed that his ministry had advised local governments in the state to set up distribution committees which would comprise sole administrators, representatives of the army, the police, education, cooperative zonal offices and trade and commercial offices in the areas. In Enugu, the distribution agencies would also involve specially designated outlets such as super markets, the Anambra State Supply and Distribution Agency, the Anambra Cooperative Whole Sale Association, Kingsway Stores and other distribution agencies that would sell to the public. Mr Adibuah said that about 16 agencies would be involved in the exercise. Meanwhile, letters of collection and payment have been sent to local governments whom he said had the major bulk of the commodity. [Text] [Enugu DAILY STAR in English 8 Mar 84 p 1]

CSO: 3400/842

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

PRESIDENT DENIES EXISTENCE OF SOVIET MILITARY BASES

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 26 Mar 84 p 5

[Report on interview with Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of Sao Tome, by the Portuguese newspaper EXPRESSO, in Sao Tome, date not supplied]

[Text] Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of Sao Tome, has again denied reports broadcast over "Voice of America " claiming that the Soviet Union maintains bases and a contingent of 1,000 soldiers in Sao Tome.

"It happens that we are in a strategic location here in the Gulf of Guinea," Pinto da Costa stressed, "and we take this into consideration, but we think it is an insult to our intelligence when certain countries say that Sao Tome is a Soviet base."

Referring to the strategic location of Sao Tome and Principe, the Sao Tomian chief of state declared that his government does not intend to negotiate with anyone over this position.

"We have no intention of threatening or attacking anyone....We desire peace and good relations with all peoples," Pinto da Costa noted.

In an interview with the Portuguese newspaper EXPRESSO, in Sao Tome, the Sao Tomian leader said: "There is talk about military bases. But," he asked, "isn't it true that Sao Tome and Principe have the right to an airport? And if they have one, does this necessarily mean that it is a military base?"

Asked to comment on military cooperation between his country and Portugal, a subject which came up recently during the visit by President Ramalho Eanes to Sao Tome and Principe, the Sao Tomian chief of state admitted the possibility of having Portuguese instructors in Sao Tome and Principe, but he ruled out the possibility that Portugal or any other country could install military bases on Sao Tomian soil.

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CSO: 3442/325

NEW RIGHTWING ORGANIZATION FORMED

Advertisement States Goals

Pretoria DIE PATRIOT in Afrikaans 10 Mar 84 p 12

[Membership Advertisement]

[Excerpt] The Afrikaner nation of people is facing the most decisive moment in its history. More than ever, its survival as a distinctive, free people is at stake. In the past, the question was: can it survive? Now the question is: does it want to survive? The Afrikaner nation of people finds the purpose of its existence in the will of God the Trinity, the God of the Bible. For it, the promise of the future is the same thing as the fulfillment of the calling. And survival is the first step on the road to fulfillment of the calling. That is why this white nation of people refuses to give in or give way. But giving in and giving way start with making concessions. The world must know this unambiguously. A voice that cannot be silenced must say this.

For this, a movement is necessary that involves Afrikaners along the entire range of the life of the people in a national revival.

Therefore, we summons Afrikaners to a stringing together of forces in a cultural movement (family organization) which we are calling THE AFRIKANER PEOPLE'S SENTRY.

The premises of the movement include the following: Faith in God the Trinity, whose Word is the highest standard and is accepted by us as such; Family life as the basis of the people's existence; and the Independent survival and consistency of calling of the Afrikaner nation of people and the responsibility of each generation to assure survival.

Our goal: The movement comes into being in order to establish by means of Afrikaner power, its power of faith; its power of mind; its power of intellect; its power of capital; its power of work; its power of will; its power of enterprise; and a cultural people's front, through which Afrikaners, as a white nation of people can protect and promote its vital interests, true to its history and its calling.

Objectives: To make the Afrikaner nation of people aware of itself anew, aware of its distinctness as white people of Africa, its own language and its fatherland;

to uphold and strengthen the religious-moral base of the Afrikaner nation of people within the Calvinist outlook on life; to bring a strong national awareness into the household, the school and the society; to sharpen the Afrikaner's concept of history and appreciation for his past as preparation for the future; to uphold and promote the Afrikaans language as an expression of Afrikaner distinctness; to struggle for the Afrikaner's right to be free and white in Africa and to govern himself in his territory; to stimulate the expression of Afrikaner destiny in creative and interpretive art; and to infuse the Afrikaner with personal initiative and energy, which will heighten his self-respect and command the respect of others.

Methods: The initiation of an Afrikaner cultural strategy directed at strengthening the Afrikaner in self-defense, self-expression and self-realization; the establishment of an organizational communications network through which connections between one another can be brought about; the planning and coordinating of research and the conversion of the results of study and research into practical programs of action; and the conducting of projects such as seminars, think tanks, youth congresses and conferences.

Treurnicht, Marais, Boshoff Comment

Pretoria DIE PATRIOT in Afrikaans 10 Mar 84 p 1

[Article: "Hysteria Over New Organization"]

[Text] The hour is at hand to identify those in the Afrikaner nation of people who are renouncing the people's right to self-determination, the leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Andries Treurnicht, said.

He delivered a short message on Saturday, 18 February, at the historic meeting at the house of the well-known cultural leader, Professor Carel Boshoff, where initial work on a new cultural organization was being done.

Unparalleled interest is prevalent in the organization that will be formed on 4 and 5 May in Skilpad Hall in Pretoria.

Since it became known that a new cultural organization is being planned, hysteria has broken out in the liberal Afrikaans press and SABC-TV. Accusations are being hurled. However, this only arouses interest, and thousands of people are expected for the inception congress.

Well-Known People

Numerous well-known people have already become associated with the organization. Among others, there is the leader of the HNP [Reconstituted National Party], Mr Jaap Marais, the leader of the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement], Mr Eugene Terre-Blanche, various former ministers and politicians, cultural leaders and others, including the Hon Henning Klooper, cofounder of the Afrikaner Broederbond, and Mrs Bessie Verwoerd.

In an article on page nine, Dr Andries Treurnicht welcomes the formation of a cultural organization. To the question of who asked for it, he answer "Afrikaners!--people who refuse to let their Afrikaner aspirations pour off into mere South Africanism and who are concerned about the free future of the Afrikaner nation of people."

Renunciation

During the steering meeting, Dr Treurnicht said that a position must be taken towards those who are renouncing the right to self-determination of the Afrikaner nation of people. The hour has also come to join hands with one another. This does not mean joining hands with people who are tearing down our people's structures--such as its parliament--but certainly with those who are irrevocably committed to the struggle.

Professor Boshoff said in an interview that the unstoppable enthusiasm and spontaneous cooperation that has been met with since it became known that a new organization was being formed, is proof enough that there is a great need for it.

Clear Conscience

"This is why our conscience is clear when it comes to the formation of a new cultural organization." Cooperation is being sought with those organizations pursuing the same goals.

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DIE PATRIOT EVALUATES REFERENDUM RESULTS

Pretoria DIE PATRIOT in Afrikaans 10 Mar 84 p 8

[Editorial: "The Referendum in Perspective"]

[Text] People are still asking: what happened with the referendum? What came of all the yes-votes? The results of interim elections in Pinetown and Soutpansberg are making the question even greater.

In Pinetown, the majority of voters turned against the NP [National Party]-NRP [New Republic Party] partnership. The two out and out yes-vote parties lost. This means that the NP cannot take nearly so much pride in the outcome of the referendum, as if it indicated unquestionable confidence in the initiative of Prime Minister P.W. Botha.

From the point of view of party government, that is, government by a specific party with its own policy, the majority of yes-votes in the referendum means precious little. Indeed, a large number of yes-votes came from people who basically reject the administration's half-baked exclusiveness in the political domain. The NP cannot--this is what Pinetown had to say--count on the support of those people in a general election. The NP thus does not have a majority of 1,360,233 to almost 700,000.

Denis Beckitt gave an interesting analysis in Frontline. It more or less comes down to the following. Among the yes-votes there must have been almost 300,000 Progressive [Progressive Federal Party] votes and, give or take a few, 136,000 NRP votes. That leaves a little more than 900,000 NP votes. If approximately 100,000 English-speaking Progressives voted no, that leaves almost 600,000 Conservative Afrikaners who voted no.

But does this mean that there are more than 900,000 Afrikaner Nationalists? Certainly not. Together with the approximately 600,000 Afrikaner no-votes, the Afrikaner yes-votes would then constitute one and a half million of the just over two million votes cast. Compared with the half million of the English speakers, this would be a ratio of three to one. And this does not at all tally with the 60-40 ratio in the number of Afrikaans speakers to English speakers in our country.

This means only one thing, and that is that almost 300,000 other English speakers must have been voting for the NP over the years. Subtract them

from the 900,000 Nationalists, and the result shows that Afrikaners are approximately split down the middle between Conservative no-votes and NP yes-votes. It makes you think! No wonder that the NP members of parliament seem uncertain and confused. And in the Transvaal Provincial Council, they are afraid that one of these days the KP [Conservative Party] will become the official opposition! Very possible!

12271

CSO: 3401/58

RIFT REPORTED IN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Kampala THE PEOPLE in English 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] EIGHTEEN members of the Kitgum District Executive Committee of the Democratic Party (DP) have totally rejected and disassociated themselves from the leadership of Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere as the President General of the DP.

The rejection was contained in an open letter to the DP National Chairman and signed by 18 members in which the signatories petitioned the National Chairman to "salvage the Party from ruin and demise."

In the open letter, the Kitgum Democrats accused what they called the "Kampala clique of DP" of "hijacking" the party to serve "one man and his henchmen." They also accused the DP leadership of promoting ethnic and sectarian antagonism to cover up financial scandals within the party.

The communication stated that the DP had not been equipped with strategies for the 1980 General Elections. The members flatly declared as sham the results of the 27th-28th January 1984 elections in which new DP executives were elected.

These were elections in which Ssemogerere roundly trounced Mr Tiberio Okeny Otwoma who had challenged him for the post of President General. Reports from Lugogo Indoor Stadium at the time showed that the elections had been carried on amidst sporadic fist fights between the supporters of Ssemogerere and Okeny. Mr Okeny, flanked by the ousted Acting Secretary General of DP, Mr Anthony Ocaya and another ousted DP National Publicity Secretary, Mr Valerian Ovonyi, later gave a press conference in which they accused Ssemogerere and Evaristo Nyanzi for failing to account for party funds.

At the same press conference, Mr Okeny charged that "Munnansi," the DP mouthpiece was selling lies to the country to sustain the party.

Ssemogerere was further accused of having circulated in Kampala a list of new party incumbents acceptable to him several weeks before the Annual Delegates Conference. It was this list which what Okeny described as the "Mpigi clique" used to rig the elections.

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IRON, STEEL INDUSTRY PRODUCTION DESCRIBED

Kampala THE PEOPLE in English 19 Mar 84 pp 5, 6, 9

[Article by Ndyakira-Amooti]

[Text] UGANDA Steel Corporation (USC) has fittingly been described as the common man's Corporation. The description is pertinent in that the corporation's concern is the production of requirements for the common man. These requirements are sourcepans, steel basins, kettles and other kitchen ware, hoes, steel beds, doors, window designs and steel chairs, spring mattresses, barbed wire as well as corrugated iron sheets.

Noble concerns as there are, the long-term challenge to the Uganda Steel Corporation is the need to develop an iron and steel industry in the country. Ultimately, this will mean finding ways and means of utilizing locally available resources as well as developing potential ones to produce steel products for the country. The development of an iron and steel industry in Uganda is possible because the major material input, iron ore is available in this country.

Uganda has very rich iron ore deposits. The deposits are situated at Muko Ridge in Kabale District. The department of Geological Surveys has started drilling in Muko Ridge to establish the quantity of iron deposits which exist in this area.

The USC, in collaboration with Hungarian experts, has carried out a detailed chemical analysis of Muko iron ore deposits. The ore has been found to possess a 68 per cent iron content, one of the highest percentages in the world.

Analysis has also been carried in Sukulu Hills, in Tororo. The iron content in this ore is reasonably good for the manufacture of pig iron. But the major problem is that the ore contains a highly pollutant chemical called titanium which makes the processing of iron ore difficult.

Iron ore can also be extracted from the Kilembe Mines wastes. According to the Uganda Steel Corporation established findings, iron ore forms 25-30 per cent of the Kilembe Mines wastes. This very wastes also contain cobalt ore.

Scrap Metal

Presently, most of the steel mills in Uganda, like in most other African countries, rely on metal scrap as source of raw materials. There is however, fear that future supply of metal scrap is precarious because it is becoming scarce and very expensive.

Sources from the Uganda Steel Corporation indicate that there is an on-going detailed survey of the available scrap in the country. There are also surveys in the methods of collecting the available scrap with the view of establishing a steady supply of scrap to the East African Steel Products at Masere, Jinja.

Steel Industry

Still a lot remains to be done in the direction of development of an iron and steel industry to offset the future demand and make the country self-reliant in the supply of steel and steel products.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has picked up interests in the development of Uganda's iron and steel industry. Significantly the Managing Director of the Uganda Steel Corporation has been a consultant on the Eastern and Southern African proposed project on development of iron and steel.

According to sources from the Uganda Steel Corporation, UNIDO experts have carried out a feasibility study on the possibility of developing an iron and steel project in Uganda. The experts have also worked out a programme of developing the project. Sources added that the experts' report is being seriously scrutinized by the government of Uganda. However, a lot more study needs to be carried out about the proposed Kigezi Iron and Steel Project at Muko. The USC will need to survey the related infrastructures. These will include studies on transport and communications systems, water and power supplies as well as the location for the outlay of the plant.

There is also the need to study the availability of related input, either present in Uganda itself or in the neighbouring countries. There is a possibility that natural gas can be obtained from Lake Kivu which is relatively near to Muko. Ventures can also be made in the processing of charcoal to supply coke. On the other hand, coking coal can be obtained from neighbouring Tanzania, which has considerable deposits of coal.

The proposed development of the potential hydroelectric power sites in several places in Uganda would solve power supply problem. Also power projects contained in the Kagera Basin Organisation (KBO) programme, give hope to the solution of some of the problems that confront the proposed Kigezi Iron and Steel Project.

The Uganda Steel Corporation is doing all it can to make necessary contacts with interested parties in implementing the project.

Organizations like the World Bank and countries like Austria and India had shown interest in the Kigezi Iron and Steel Project by Mid-1970s. They had in fact sent delegations to Uganda to discuss the issue. However, the policies of the regime of terror did not favour plans to venture into the project. Consequently, the interests died down.

Needless to say, such a project requires colossal resources and the government cannot go it alone. Consequently the corporation is at the moment trying to revive contacts with some of the former interested parties as well as establish new one.

Development Fund

According to sources from USC, the Corporation is in the process of launching a "Development Fund" for Kigezi Iron and Steel Project. Finance from interested parties including the government will be paid into this 'Development Fund.'

A focus on the Eastern and Southern Africa subregion of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) indicates that member states of the Lusaka-based Multi-national Operation Centres (MULPOC) are trying to forge cooperation with Uganda in the development of iron and steel industry in the sub-region.

The MULPOC countries have for a long time depended on imports of steel and steel products from the developed world, and therefore the development of the steel industry is of paramount importance. Currently all the steel mills in the sub-region depend on metal scrap whose supply is dwindling fast and whose importation has become expensive.

The sub-region further suffers from inadequate trained manpower in metallurgical and related industries. Undeveloped transport system is another handicap. Raw materials required for development of heavy iron and steel industry are scattered in the region. Even if one country possessed all the required raw materials, it would be too expensive a venture for a single country to undertake.

Yet to solve some of Africa's problems of underdevelopment, low level of industrialization, unemployment, low levels of technology, poverty and related socio-economic issues, African states will have to develop a sound iron and steel industry. It is a pre-requisite industry for the development and progress of other industries.

In this view, the development of iron and steel industry and related metallurgical facilities in the Lusaka-based MULPOC countries is very fundamental. It is a paramount factor in the future establishment of an industrial base in the sub-region.

It is addressed to the need for self-reliance in the supply of especially, carbon steels which are currently imported, in large quantities, is an urgent matter as Carbon steels are required for infrastructure and industrial construction as well as for the maintenance of existing industrial capacities.

The sub-region member states have already carried out deep surveys with regard to the matter. The report proposals by an ECA consultant have been approved by both the sub-region Council of Ministers and the ECA. An Eastern and Southern Africa Steel Development Committee has been formed to lay the foundation for co-operation in the field.

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RELATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS, GOVERNMENT EXAMINED

Paris LE MONDE in French 8-9 Apr 84 p 7

[Article by Jacques de Barrin: 'The 'Spoiled Children' of the Campuses']

[Text] Intent upon university autonomy, the students are hardly appreciative of the government's attempts to keep them in line. Zambia is not the only example of difficult relations between governments and future members of the elite.

Lusaka--When will the next incident be?, one would be tempted to say on Monday 9 April, when students again take the road to the Lusaka campus, which has been closed since 16 February because of serious trouble. Of course those 3,750 students on government scholarships will have to pay a registration fee of 10 kwachas (50 francs), as if this were a normal beginning of the school year, and will have to pay another 25 kwachas (130 francs) in damages--which is nothing compared to a laborer's monthly salary, 60 kwachas--and pledge in writing that they will not start trouble again and will maintain law and order. But did they not already make amends the other times?

Must it be admitted that the strictest enforcement of discipline on the campus, made necessary by the increase in the number of students--to put it plainly, the requirement of a ticket of admission to "Resto U" and the ban on female visitors in the rooms after 2200--inflamed the university to the point that disorders turned into rioting? Of course, the intervention by paramilitary forces that had been ordered to seize the "ringleaders" crystallized the anger of the student body, which set fire to several automobiles and even carried audacity so far as to hurl antigovernment slogans! However, some people think, although no formal proof is available, that it was people who fish in troubled waters, agents provocateurs, who fanned the blaze a little.

In 1971, students mobilized already against the sale of Mirages to South Africa by France. In February 1976 they went into the streets to contribute their support to the MPLA, while Kenneth Kaunda, the Zambian head of state, was showing that his sympathies were with UNITA. In 1978, they took up the cudgels for university personnel who were on strike.

In the spring of 1982 there was a more serious affair. Mr Kaunda's plan to create a chair for the teaching of government doctrine, a humanism with a Zambian flavor, stirred up some agitation in the university world, which suspected that

it was a maneuver by the single party, the UNIP, so it could infiltrate the Lusaka campus. That campus was closed from 21 April to 21 June. The government finally had to beat a retreat and content itself with forming a vague Institute of Human Relations. Last December, finally, the government advanced the Christmas vacation by 2 days in order to gain control over a restlessness, born of its decision to abolish scholarships as an economy measure, a decision it was forced to reconsider, in spite of everything, almost immediately.

Corruption in Leadership Circles

Today, the students are concentrating their attention more on the country's internal problems than on outside events. Perhaps because they have not been involved closely in the fight for independence, they do not feel bound to say nothing about their grievances against those who are responsible for them, to excuse their errors and mistakes? And all the less so now that the government, with the help of the times and the economic crisis, seems to be hardening, to be more and more resistant to opposition.

It is impossible for the government to make the students swallow just anything, to treat them like villagers who are uneducated and unimportant. Through their relatives who often occupy a post, even though it may be a modest one, in the apparatus of the government, they guess what is brewing in the side roads, if not the main roads, of power. How, for example, could they close their eyes to the deficiencies in the educational system of a country that is still 35 percent illiterate, how could they accept without balking the calls for effort and discipline, when corruption is moving at a brisk pace in leadership circles?

The claim of these intellectuals that they can make all the decisions and position themselves on the sidelines, exasperates the government and, oddly enough, the UNIP, whose members present themselves as men of the earth, poorly endowed for handling ideas. "The Party's leaders distrust the university," Mr Kunda recently acknowledged. In his opinion, "There is a gulf between the national community and the students, because the latter have a tendency to think that they are not part of the society."

On the strength of their knowledge, might the students be holding their countrymen in very low esteem, even though some of those countrymen believe they are authorized to speak on the students' behalf? "They are neither more nor less arrogant as regards the population than the people in power are," a professor assures us.

To tell the truth, one hears it said here and there, "These are spoiled children and they behave that way." After 5 years of secondary school, no more than 10 percent of them leap the higher education barrier. For 4 years those happy few are on the campus, with virtually all expenses paid, as holders of government scholarships. In addition to housing and feeding them free of charge, the government pays the students a quarterly allowance of about 700 francs--for buying supplies, transportation expenses and pocket money--, part of which they seek to divert so they can send it to their families.

The students live two to a room and have at their disposal sports equipment, gymnasium and tennis among other things. Each house has its meeting room where the "tenants" can watch television or video and borrow discs and cassettes.

Those are all facilities, financial and material, which many would consider justification for calling the students "privileged." But would not the most appreciable advantage by far have been the guarantee of automatically finding a job in government service upon graduation from the university?

Bad Company

But this is less and less true, especially if one graduates with a low ranking: the choices are narrowing and the waiting time is lengthening. Moreover, some are wondering whether, at the present stage of Zambia's development, the accent should not be put first and foremost on the training of technicians who are sadly lacking. "A university person is not a man of the land," someone comments, "and the country needs practical technicians most of all." Forty percent of the students still prefer the literary and legal disciplines.

It is those very students who, here as elsewhere, show themselves to be the most restless and who form the active and radical--not to say Marxist--element in the university debate. "There is not really any solidarity," says a professor. "It is most often a minority, in which the bad pupils are to be found, that drags the majority into excesses." At the time of the disorders of last February, a dozen moderate elements that had put out an appeal for calmness--perhaps at the instigation of the campus' principal--had to nimbly disappear to escape the anger of some of their comrades.

The professorial body is attempting to keep its distance from the students, not to be with them too much outside of classes. The government, which does not appear to hold students in very high esteem--"We learned from television that the university had been closed," says one of its representatives--, fears most of all a kind of "holy alliance" between teachers and those who are taught. "We are forced to be always on guard, because any other attitude would be suicidal, would have very serious consequences for us, expulsion and unemployment," a Zambian insists.

On the other hand, for the foreigners, who make up about 40 percent of the professorial staff, chiefly in the scientific and technical disciplines, there is always a way to find a new job somewhere else in case of a hard blow. Also, some of them, especially Britons, have not held back in the past from throwing oil on the fire. The government has always penalized university disorders by sending several teachers back to their own countries. The recent events were the first time that punishments--expulsions, suspensions--have struck only the students.

Autonomy in Question?

Does this mean that the students are being more or less manipulated? It is not an absurd hypothesis, even though it is obviously hard to verify. By whom? The government? It probably has its own men in the university, perhaps not enough to suit some people. Teachers from the socialist bloc? There are many who doubt it, because, someone here tells us, "they don't speak English and have to learn their lessons by heart and then recite them publicly." Foreign embassies? It turned out, it seems, that during the troubles of February 1976, Soviet diplomats had played a considerable role. Some people also emphasize the strange coincidence that saw the fairly recent disorders start up at the very moment that conversations were being held, in the immediate proximity of the campus, between English and South Africans.

By dint of getting them to talk, are not the students going to make the government want to go back on the sacrosanct principle of university? Since the troubles of spring 1982, the idea has been under discussion in the government and Party administrations. The latter are asking themselves about the usefulness of adapting to local realities the European-type structures inherited from the colonial age. A warning from Mr Kaunda: "We will respect that autonomy as long as it is responsive to the aspirations of the nation."

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BRIEFS

MUGABE CONDEMNS WOMEN'S POLLING--HARARE--Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, yesterday condemned his party's recent Women's League elections for choosing its executive on the basis of candidates' regional affiliations. The Sunday Mail quoted him yesterday as telling members of the Zanu (PF) youth brigade that the Women's League elections last month were "a disappointment." The elections for the 11 members of the executive, which includes his wife, Sally, as the Women's League's second in command, were characterised by regional voting blocks which deliberately prevented some candidates from attaining positions, Mr Mugabe said. Although the party has accepted the leaders elected, it "strongly condemned such practices", he was reported as saying. The condemnation was Mr Mugabe's first public reaction to the conference which was held last month. During the elections, which were conducted by show of hands rather than by secret ballot, Mrs Julia Zvobgo, formerly administrative secretary to the Women's League and also wife of the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Eddison Zvobgo, stood four times for executive positions, and only on the fourth attempt was she given what observers described as the conciliatory post of Secretary for Information. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 9 Apr 84 p 14]

NEW RAILROAD LINE--The minister of transport, Comrade Herbert Ushewokunze, says he will work hard to ensure that a railway line is built between Harare and (Chitumbisa) before May next year. The minister, who officiated at the independence celebrations in (Seke), was responding to a plea by the chairman of the (Chitumbisa) Town Council, Comrade (Alexio Chituwango). Comrade (Chituwango) said the railway line would ease the transport problem and would be an incentive for industries to be built in the area. [Text] [MB200712 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Apr 84]

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